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Sunday Times

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CITY CHATTER.

OUTLOOK FOR THE NEW YEAR — BANKING RESULTS — AIRCRAFT PROFITS — MINES IN RETROSPECT—OIL PROBLEMS.

(R. J. BARRETT, Financial Editor.)

Few regrets will attend the passing of 1930 so far as the City is concerned, only the dealers in the Consol market having cause to be grateful for a long run of prosperity. Elsewhere scarcely a redeeming feature can be found, as shown by the brief summary of prices as compared with those of a year ago, which is given below. At the extreme close 1930 made some attempt to redeem its ill-omened character, a substantial advance in British Government securities following upon the reduction of the New York Bank Rate, with its implication of easy money conditions here after the turn of the New Year. A renewal of the banking troubles in the United States in face of loud assurances that the worst had been seen in this connection has undermined confidence, and it will take time before this is fully restored.

So far as home investments are concerned no decided tendency was established, dealers being mainly concerned with evening up their books. Business in Home Rails has shrunk to meagre proportions. No interest is taken in the coming dividends, which, it is assumed, will show a general reduction, while no progress is apparently being made towards a better understanding with labour. A further recovery in the Argentine Rails was mainly a matter of bear closing, the traffics being poor, while the exchange continued adverse. Canadian Pacifics weakened under the influence of the unsatisfactory aspect of the market for Canadian wheat, but rallied at the close. Among Foreign bonds a recovery in Brazilians was checked by further sales from New York, but a good impression was created by the news that the funds to meet the coupon on the Rio de Janeiro 7 per Cent. loan are on their way.

THE BANKING YEAR.

Before the next issue of the SUNDAY TIMES appears some of the great joint-stock banks may have declared their final dividends for 1930. Thanks to their splendid organisation, no institutions are more expeditious in striking their balances and letting their shareholders know as quickly as possible the outcome of their operations.

The moment is therefore opportune for considering what the past year's results are likely to be. At the start, it should be noted that, with the exception of two provincial companies prominently identified with the Lancashire cotton industry, all the leading banks, including, of course, the Big Five, have maintained their interim distributions. The general, nay, confident, expectation is that final rates will likewise be as before. Stability of dividends is a tradition of modern English banking. When profits go up more is placed to reserves. When they go down, as they occasionally may, less is allocated to reserves, and the shareholders' dividend, always comfortably earned, is unchanged. The only plum shareholders look for in these days is the issue on rare occasions of new capital on bonus terms.

There are good reasons for expecting that the past year's profits of the leading banks were lower than those obtained in 1928 and 1929. For one thing, money rates generally were lower, so that in all branches of lending lower returns must have been obtained. The depressed state of trade and the abnormally low level of commodity prices generally must also have caused some shrinkage in the total turnover of money. The clearing-house returns prove that. With a smaller aggregate business and lower rates of remuneration for most forms of banking accommodation a decrease in profits seems to be almost a foregone conclusion.

Yet, it may be seriously doubted whether the falling off is as heavy as is predicted in some quarters. It is a matter of common knowledge that the banks have been employing surplus funds to much advantage in gilt-edged securities from the timely realisation of which satisfactory profits have accrued. It is the banker's duty, whatever the circumstances and conditions, to employ his resources lucratively in every possible direction compatible with safety. And that is a task which none of the banks has neglected.

INDUSTRIAL POINTS.

Renewed weakness in Internationals extended to Gramophones and Columbias, but these recovered at the last, and not much impression was made on Home Industrials. Unilevers, Imperial Chemicals and United Molasses gave way to a small extent but rallied on bear repurchases. Better support was given to Stores shares in the belief that the Christmas shopping season has made amends for the preceding period of slack business. But while Harrods recovered, Harrods (B.A.) declined on the revelation at the meeting of the adverse effects of the fall in the Argentine exchange, to provide against which in the current year it is necessary to set aside £70,000 out of profits.

Turner and Newall after falling to 37s. 6d. have recovered to 44s. The market is now resigned to a reduction in the dividend, but hopes it will not be less than 12½ per cent. for the year. If there is a cut to 10 per cent. the price will fall further. Pinchin Johnsons have rallied, but here also holders are nervous of the cut in the dividend. Tobacco shares keep up very well and Breweries are not unduly perturbed by the approach of the Budget, results announced in respect of the past year being uniformly satisfactory.

National Omnibus shares in their new form proved attractive. McNamara Transport responded to the directors' view that the reduction of capital will lead to a resumption of dividends, although a loss must be expected in respect of the past year. Sunderland Bus shares rose further in the belief that the L. and N.E. Rly. will offer 11s. each for the shares.

Lautaro Nitrate Preference flattened out on the decision to postpone payment of a dividend until the negotiations for the formation of the Chilean combine are more advanced. In the Shipping group White Star Line Preference weakened owing to the fear that the dividend will be passed.

Cables and Wireless resumed their decline on the falling off in November earnings. As shown by the comparison with a year ago, the slump in this company's securities which are so widely held was one of the most disastrous features of 1930. Recovery is apparently dependent upon that of overseas trade.

AIRCRAFT PROFITS.

Our references to aircraft shares three Sundays ago proved to be rather timely. Since then two of the leading aeroplane manufacturing companies have issued their annual accounts, disclosing results which, all things considered, must be regarded as satisfactory. It might, indeed, be said that few infant industries have made a more promising start.

The Fairey Aircraft Co. was particularly successful. Its turnover again showed a marked increase, and its profit of £170,000 was £5,000 ahead of that earned in the previous year, in spite of the lower prices charged to customers. In the face of intense competition important orders were secured from foreign governments, and apparently there are big chances of further contracts being obtained from countries in which the technical superiority of British aircraft is recognised.

For the time being the prudent policy of conserving financial resources is followed. Shareholders may be disappointed by the limitation of their dividend to 7 per cent., but at this stage of development it is a wise course to put a fair proportion of the profits back into the business. This has been done by writing down patents and designs by £40,000 and by starting a general reserve with an appropriation of £30,000. In studying very carefully the possibilities of civil aviation, at present a luxury pastime, the directors are displaying that vision so essential in all progressive businesses. For the present shareholders should be content with the chairman's assurance that the works are on full time, with good orders on hand and in prospect.

The De Havilland company was not quite so successful in the past as in the previous financial year, its net profits having dropped from £48,700 to £36,500. The decline is ascribed to the generally depressed condition of industry throughout the world, a depression from the effects of which even the business of aircraft manufacturers has not wholly escaped. Shareholders naturally regret the reduction of their dividend from 10 to 5 per cent., a reduction curiously yet intelligently anticipated by a sharp fall in the market value of the shares some days in advance of the official disclosure of the past year's results. But they should find some compensation in the continued building up of the reserve fund, to which £15,000 has again been transferred, and in the writing down of interests in overseas subsidiaries to a figure (£32,600) which must be considered moderate in view of the great possibilities of air services in countries not too well supplied with railway communications.

INVESTMENT HINTS.

Attention has previously been directed to the shares of C. W. Randall and Co., the leather and rubber merchants, and it is gratifying to find that, despite the state of trade in the past year, it was possible to maintain dividends, the Participating Preference receiving 12 per cent. and the Ordinary shares 190 per cent. for the past year. Profits showed some contraction, but it was not considered necessary to make any further allocations to reserves, which are substantial. Quoted at 25s., the Preference shares yield over 9½ per cent., and appear under-valued. The 1s. Ordinary at 12s. 9d. represent a yield of almost 15 per cent., and are necessarily more speculative.

Greenwood and Batley, the Leeds engineers, have again declared an interim dividend of 2½ per cent. For eight years the total dividend has been 5 per cent., and the £1 shares at 10s. 9d. yield 9½ per cent. Profits have been very steady for seven years, and those for 1930-31 increased to £32,852. The company has large reserves, and is in a position to take advantage of any improvement in trade.

British Electric Traction 6 per cent. Participating Preference stock is entitled to a further 2 per cent. after the Ordinary stock has received 6 per cent., and the present rate of dividend is £7 13s. 6d. per cent. To pay the fixed dividend requires £42,764, whereas the amount available last time was £196,995. Quoted at 132, the stock yields about 5¾ per cent., and is well secured.

MINES IN RETROSPECT.

A year ago dealers in Mining shares buoyed themselves up with the hope that their wares would receive increased attention owing to the collapse of the boom in Industrials. This hope has been sadly falsified by events. Nearly all the factors affecting Mines proved of an adverse character. The difficulties of the Diamond industry became more acute. Copper, tin, lead, zinc, and silver fell to lower levels than witnessed for many a year; zinc and silver, indeed, became cheaper than ever previously known. On top of all occurred the financial and political difficulties in Paris. Witwatersrand and a few other Gold shares have provided practically the only bright spots. Kaffir finance undertakings have paid dearly for their incursions into distant fields.

The collapse in Northern Rhodesians was contributed to by the fall in copper. This, in turn, rendered more difficult the raising of the additional resources required by several undertakings—a state of affairs largely responsible for the inception of the Congo Border-Bwana fusion. The policy of Copper Exporters, Inc., in maintaining their quotation at an artificial level brought its inevitable nemesis. Intensified measures of voluntary restriction of tin production did not fully meet the case, and are now being replaced by Government action. Endeavours to revive the zinc Cartel proved unsuccessful. The Diamond Corporation was formed to nurse surplus stocks of stones, and after long negotiations the Union Government agreed to limit its sales proportionately with those of other producers. Thanks to abundance of native labour, good results were secured by the gold mining companies of the Rand; but the production of platinum has been almost suspended as unprofitable at current price of the metal.

West Australians had a mild revival in connection with the Gold Bonus—which, after various "alarms and excursions" is to be granted. In West Africa, developments and dividend prospects have carried Ashanti Goldfields 4s. shares near their 1928 high level of £2.

OIL PROBLEMS.

The Oil industry was faced with two problems at the beginning of the year. Stocks of oil in storage stood at an enormous figure and crude oil was being produced at a rate far in excess of demand. Considerable success has attended efforts towards the solving of the latter problem, but the former still gives rise to great anxiety. Despite increased output from Venezuela and Russia, world production has been brought down to a level more in accordance with demand chiefly owing to the voluntary conservation carried out in the United States.

The most important issues of new capital during the year were those of £5,000,000 7 per cent. Second Preference shares by Shell Transport and of $40,000,000 4 per cent. Debentures by the Royal Dutch Company. Other developments of interest were the formation of Siparia Trinidad Oilfields, the merging of the V.O.C. Holding Company with Venezuelan Oil Concessions, and the financial reorganisation of British Controlled.

Oil shares now stand at levels very much below those of a year ago, but in this respect they are no exception to the general rule. Reports of the leading companies published during the year made an excellent showing. Record profits were reported by Anglo-Persian, while those of Shell Transport were the highest since 1920, and of the Burmah Company the highest for eleven years. Mexican Eagle paid the first ordinary dividend since 1922, and Canadian Eagle the first since the formation of the Company. The Phœnix Oil and Transport dividend was doubled, and that of Lobitos increased from 10 per cent. to 12½ per cent. The fate of Trinidad concerns was not so happy, low prices being received for oil from that country, and reduced distributions were made by Apex, Trinidad Leaseholds, and British Borneo Petroleum.

RUBBER AND TEA.

During the past year over-production coinciding with a sharp falling off in consumption, resulted in the rubber industry experiencing its worst period since it became of world importance. When it is remembered that the price of spot rubber only recorded a maximum level of 8¾d., and fell in September to 3 9-16d., it will be realised that estates have been forced to work throughout the year without profit, and in many cases at a loss.

With America still the principal market, the decrease in consumption there has been the most serious factor in keeping the price down to a ruinous level. During 1929 469,905 tons were consumed in the United States, whereas, up to the end of November this year, only 356,569 tons had been absorbed. This led to a rise in the stocks there during the eleven months from 120,649 tons to 189,924 tons. At the same time stocks in the United Kingdom have advanced from 73,319 tons to nearly 118,000 tons.

Numerous remedies have been suggested to raise the price to an economical level. At one time active steps were taken to bring about a revised restriction scheme in co-operation with the Dutch, but despite numerous consultations the movement was unsuccessful. A tapping holiday during May met with fair success, while of late drastic measures have been taken by companies to curtail their output until such times as the price becomes more profitable. Already over 140 concerns have published details of a reduction in tapping. In some cases a total cessation has been decided on.

Companies have been forced to take every measure to lower their production costs, but in spite of this, dividends have been few and far between. Share quotations have fallen to new low records, but have recovered slightly of late on an almost entire cessation of forced selling.

Tea shares developed a better tendency as a result of the improved prices obtained at the auctions of the leaf. This latter fact was the outcome of the agreement with the Dutch to restrict the 1930 crop, and steps to repeat this movement next year have been in progress for some time past.

THE OUTLOOK.

While the immediate outlook seems to point to a continuance of quiet conditions, with a possible recurrence of liquidation from time to time, there are indications that 1931 will, on the whole, be a more prosperous period for the Stock Exchange than the past year. Looking back, it is seen that the main basic cause of the deflation in market values was the slump in commodity prices. Wheat alone has been largely responsible for the bursting of the Transatlantic prosperity boom, prices of Canadian wheat having descended in the last few days to the lowest on record. Shareholders again were badly hit by the collapse of base metal prices, notably those of copper and tin.

As shown by the "Financial Times" index, wholesale prices are now below pre-war basis, and while the fall may go further, there are good reasons to believe that even the present level is too low to be permanent. As was pointed out last week, it only needs a corresponding reduction in retail prices to convince the consumer that commodities are really cheap. Already manufacturers are scenting a coming change, and instead of deploring the necessity for constantly writing down the value of their stocks, are watching for a suitable opportunity to replenish them. It may take a month or two for the economic changes to work themselves out, but sooner or later they will be reflected by the stock markets.

Throughout 1930 the view was consistently taken that the investor should place the bulk of his capital in "safety first" stocks. The need for caution has not yet passed away, and the probability is that gilt-edged investments will rise further in the opening months of 1931, so that the return from this class of security will steadily become still more meagre. Whether circumstances will be propitious for the launching of the War Loan conversion scheme soon after the repayment of the 4 per cent. War Loan on January 15 must depend very largely upon the continuance of the Continental demand for gold, which has already surpassed any expectations that might reasonably have been formed on purely economic grounds.

For the sake of the taxpayer it may be hoped that some saving can be effected in the service of the National Debt; otherwise the Chancellor will have difficulty in covering the deficit on the financial year, while a reduction of taxation, which is so urgently needed to give a stimulus to the country's trade, will again be postponed.

It is to be feared that many disappointing results by industrial companies in respect of 1930 have yet to be published, and this will tend to subdue the share market. But the Stock Exchange looks well ahead, and as soon as there are good reasons for expecting a trade revival buyers will come forward. In this connection, of course, political events will have to be closely watched.

Because of the stress laid upon the importance of adding to the world's gold supply, there is every probability that increased interest will be taken in gold mining shares during 1931. At the same time this need not preclude a revival in other forms of speculative activity. Oil shares will revive when the industry has discovered a remedy for over-production, and even Rubbers are not without hope.

PAST YEAR'S PRICE CHANGES.

The following table shows the prices of many of the leading issues as at December 24, together with the rise or fall during the year 1930.

	Dec. 31, 1929.	Dec. 24, 1930.	+ Rise or − Fall.
GILT-EDGED.			
War Loan 5%	100	103⅛	+ 3⅛
Conversion 3½%	74⅛	81¾	+ 7⅝
Consolidated 4%	84½	93	+ 8½
Funding 4%	85¼	94⅝	+ 9⅜
FOREIGN.			
Brazil 6½%	80½	64	−16½
Chinese 5% 1912	44	51	+ 7
French 5%	21⅝	20¾	− 1⅞
German 5½%	103	100½	− 2½
Mexican 6%	20	13	− 7
Turk. Unified	18	8	−10
HOME AND FOREIGN RAILS.			
Gt. Western	90½	68	−22½
L.M and S.	54¾	33	−21¾
L. and N.E. Pref.	37¾	16½	−21¼
B.A. Gt. Southern	96½	69½	−27
Leopoldina	49½	21½	−28
United Havana	24½	6	−18½
INDUSTRIALS			
Courtaulds	25s	17s	− 5/4
Columbia Graph.	5/8	1⅛	− 3/8
Brazil Traction	37/4	21½	−15/4
Kreuger and Toll	22¾	21⅞	− ⅞
Swedish Match 'B'	15	13½	− 1½
Imp. Chemical	26/3	18/7½	− 7/7½
Bleachers	22/9	15/3	− 7/6
Carreras	13/6	5½	− 7/6
Imperial Tobacco	4⅜	4⅛	− ⅜
Royal Mail	32	10	−22
Imp. Cont. Gas	33/6	34/3	+ 8
Intern. Nickel	30/4	15½	−14/3
Hydro-Electric	38	22/8	−15/3
Radio	41½	13/4	−28/4
Gramophone	4½	1⅝	− 2½
Hudson's Bay	4/8	1/4	− 3/8
Cables "A"	7/4	2/1½	− 5/2½
Do. "B"	3/6	1/1½	− 2/3½
Dennis Bros.	43/9	34/4½	− 9/4½
Coats	66/6	54/-	−11/6
F. C. Spinners	25/-	19/6	− 5/6
Babcock & Wil.	59/3	49/6	− 9/9
Un. Bk. Austral	12	7⅞	− 4¼
MINES.			
Cons. Gold Fields	2½	1½	− 1
New Modder (10/-)	4⅞	3⅛	− 1¼
Randfontein	5/6	12/4½	+6/10½
De Beers Def. (£2 10/-)	9¾	4/8	− 5/2
Rhodesian Congo Border	6/8	6¼	− 3/8
Bwana M'Kubwa	20/9	6¼	−14/7½
Malayan Dredging	24/9	17/6	− 7/3
Anglo-Oriental Ord.	6/9	8/9	+ 2/-
Rio Tinto (£5)	42¼	28¼	−14
Broken Hill North	4⅛	1⅛	− 3
San Francisco (10/-)	27/6	14/3	−13/3
Lake View (4/-)	12/9	8/7½	− 4/1½
Ashanti Goldfields	26/-	37/3	+ 11/3
U.S.			
Anglo-Persian	3¼	2⅜	− ⅞
Burmah	3½	3/0	− ⅜
Canadian Eagle	11/9	6/6	− 4/3
Mexican Eagle	14/3	7/1½	− 7/1½
Royal Dutch	32	23/8	− 8/4
Shell Transport	4⅜	3⅛	− 1/3
Trinidad Leaseholds	3/6	1/4½	− 2/1½
V.O.C.	2/8	1/3	− 1/5
RUBBERS.			
Rubber Trusts	35/-	23/4½	−11/7½
Anglo-Dutch	31/3	24/3	− 7/-
United Sua Betong	2/8	2	− 5/8
Linggi	1/3	13/4½	−10/4½
United Serdang	3/9½	2/4½	− 1/5
Anglo Java	2/9½	-/11	−1/10½
TEAS.			
Brahmapootra	29¾	32	+ 2¼
Bengal United	1⅛	3/8	− 3/4
British Indian	2⅜	2⅛	− ⅛
Nuwara Eliya	5⅛	5½	+ ⅜
Standard	5⅛	6⅝	+ ½

MONEY MARKET.

HEAVY BORROWINGS FROM THE BANK.

DISCOUNT RATES WEAKEN.

SATURDAY Afternoon.

Arrangements for tiding over the end of the year are now earnestly engaging the attention of money-brokers in Lombard Street, a large amount being borrowed from the Bank of England, both on Christmas Eve, and again to-day, the loans being taken for periods ranging up to nine days.

These funds are not, of course, required immediately, but they will be needed next week, while those who have borrowed early secure the advantage of repayment in the first few days of January. In consequence of the borrowing from the Bank, day to day money is, at the moment, in abundant supply, and borrowers requiring short accommodation can secure advances from 1½ to 1⅝ per cent. At the close of business to-day there was, in fact, difficulty in employing balances over the week-end down to 1 per cent.

As a result of an unexpected reduction in the New York Bank rate from 2½ to 2 per cent., which occurred on Tuesday night discount rates weakened, and the Government, therefore, obtained much more favourable terms for its Treasury Bills, tenders for which were received on Wednesday, instead of Friday, owing to the intervention of the Christmas holidays. The average rate of discount came out at £2 5s. 2.46d. per cent., against £2 10s. 3.41d. per cent. in the previous week. Most houses are now quoting 2 5-16 per cent. for three months' best commercial bills, while the latest Treasuries are being bid for around 2¼ per cent.

THE BANK RETURN.

The Bank Return issued to-day showed a further expansion in the note circulation of £7,535,822, which followed an increase of £7,667,361 during the preceding week. Gold stocks were depleted to the extent of £2,494,795 net, the joint effect being a contraction of £10,030,617 in the reserve.

On balance, deposit liabilities are down by £4,108,067, the reserve ratio working out at 29.0 per cent., or 8.5 per cent. down on the week.

The total gold holding is now £148,291,427, while the note issue stands at £408,201,427, the proportion of gold to notes being 36.2 per cent., as against 36.8 per cent. last week.

Silver has remained very unsettled. After a moderate rally the price once again declined, current quotations being 14¾d. per ounce for cash, and 14 11-16d. for future shipment. The price of gold remained at 85s. 1½d. per fine ounce.

The American exchange has moved in favour of sterling, owing to the lowering of the American Bank rate, cable transfers finishing the week at 4.85¼, and among Continental exchanges the German rate has moved up sharply to 20.39½.

—	Method of quoting.	Par of exch.	Quotations. Dec. 27	Dec. 20
Paris, cheques	Fr. to £	124.21	123.59-.61	123.58-.61
Berlin	Mks. to £	20.43	20.39-.39½	20.37-.37½
Brussels, ch'ques	Belgs to £	35.00	34.73½-.74	34.76-.76½
Amst'rd'm.chqs.	Fl. to £	12.107	12.05⅝-.58	12.05⅝-.06
Italy, sight	Lire to £	92.46	92.75-92.77	92.75-92.78
Greece	Drch. to £	375	374½-375½	374½-375½
Madrid, sight	Pes. to £	25.22½	25.06-.16	25.40-.45.70
Lisbon, sight	Escudo	4.50	108⅛-.3⅜	108⅛-.3⅜
Switz'rl'nd, sight	Fr. to £	25.22½	25.01½-.02	25.00.00½
Oslo .....sight	Kr. to £	18.159	18.15⅝-.16	18.15⅝-.16
Stockholm, sight	Kr. to £	18.159	18.10¾-.11¼	18.09⅜.10¼
Copenhagen, s'gt	Kr. to £	18.159	18.16-.16½	18.16-.16½
Helsingfors	Mks. to £	193.25	192½-193¼	192⅝-193
Vienna	Sh. to £	34.58½	34.48-34.49	34.47-34.50
Alexandria, sight	Pstrs. to £	97½	97⅞-97⅞	97⅞-97⅞
Prague	Kr. to £	164.25	163.9-.11	163.8-.12
Bucharest	Lei to £	813.6	817-819	817-819
Bombay, T.T.	d. to rupee	18d.	1s. 5⅜d.	1s. 5⅜d.
Calcutta, T.T.	d. to rupee	18d.	1s. 5⅜d.	1s. 5⅜d.
Hong Kong, T.T.	d. to dol.	—	1s. 1½d.	1s. 1⅝d.
Shanghai, T.T.	d. to tael	—	1s. 5⅝d.	1s. 5⅝d.
Singapore, T.T.	d. to dol.	2s. 4d.	2s. 3⅝d.	2s. 3⅝d.
Kobe	Yen	24.57d.	2s. 0⅛d.	2s. 0⅛d.
New York, cable	Dol. to £	4.86⅜	4.85⅜-.7⅛	4.85⅝-.½
Montreal, cable	Dol. to £	4.86⅜	4.85⅜-.5⅜	4.86¼-.½
Rio de J., T.T.	d. to mil.	5.86d.	45¾-4⅞	4⅞-4⅞
Buenos A's, T.T.	Dollar	47.58d.	35⅞-36	36⅛-.37
Valp'r'iso, 90d's	Pesos to £	40	39.93	39.93
Montevideo, T.T.	d. to dol	51d	35½-.36	36-36½
Lima	Sols to £	12.166	16.45	16.22½

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

Readers who desire answers on financial matters should send their queries to "Financial Editor," the "Sunday Times," 135, Fleet Street, London, E.C.4, so as to arrive not later than first post Fridays.

Essex.—You are not entitled to the dividend.

C. E. W.—There is a reasonable chance of recovery.

E. H. W.—You might exchange into Savings Certificates of the third series.

Constant Reader.—Nos. 2, 5, 7, and 8 would be the most suitable for your purpose.

A. H.—It is a sound principle to ignore communications from strangers who have shares to sell by telephone or otherwise.

C. P. (Jersey).—All are quite reasonable investments, though No. 5 are a little uncertain under present conditions in Australia.

Panama.—Suggest you write to Messrs. N. Kelzer and Co., 9, Drapers Gardens, E.C.2, asking whether the bonds have any value.

Mora.—(1) As you have held so long, you should exercise a little more patience. (2) As a speculative investment, Gramophones are reasonable.

M. S.—Unless the Victory bonds are likely to be required for payment of death duties, would realise and exchange into Consolidated 4 per Cent.

Invest.—(1) War Loan 5 per Cent. would be the best selection, even allowing for the possibility of a conversion offer. (2) Keep the Brazilian bonds for ultimate recovery. (3) Nothing has recently been heard of this concern. Fear the money is lost.

Batman.—Holborough Cement Company holds 390,000 Ordinary shares of Dunstable Portland Cement Company out of 625,000 shares issued. The directors are substantially the same as those who were recently removed from the board of Allied Cement Manufacturers.

Kim.—(1) Not first-class, but you may get a better price. (2) Cannot advise selling to unknown people, but recovery is likely to be slow. The best you can hope for is an offer of absorption. (3) Here again there must be a long wait for recovery. (4) See no reason to cut a loss on these. (5) and (6) Would not average either of these, but simply hold.

INCOME-TAX QUERIES.

G. W. K.—You are entitled to deduct tax from the mortgage interest which falls due on March 31, 1931, at 4s. 6d. in the £.

Cwmru.—The repairs allowance can be claimed by you, and in the case of a house not exceeding £40 a year is one-quarter of the gross annual value.

Acton.—An allowance may be claimed in respect of compulsory contributions under the Widows', Orphans', and Old-Age Contributory Pensions Act, 1925.

J. R.—You can claim a deduction in respect of the contribution which you make to your superannuation fund if that fund has been approved by the Commissioners of Inland Revenue.

Nevis.—The Sch. A assessment on your house will have been made upon the assessed annual value, which is not necessarily the same as the rateable value. In view of the rents received by you the assessment appears to be quite reasonable. As the mortgage interest is £180 a year you are entitled to deduct tax from this at 4s. 6d. in the £, which tax amounts to £40 10s., so that the demand note which you have received for £36 14s. 7d. is not enough.

Devonian.—The dependent relative allowance can be claimed in respect of any relative whom you maintain at your own expense, provided that such relative is either your widowed mother or the widowed mother of your wife, or is some other relative of yours or your wife who is prevented by old age or infirmity from maintaining himself or herself, and provided that the relative in any case does not possess an income, exclusive of voluntary allowances exceeding £50 a year.

C. S. C.—A widow over 65 years of age who employs a housekeeper can claim allowances as follows: £2135 personal allowance free of tax, £90 housekeeper allowance free of tax, the first £250 of the remainder of her income to be charged at 2s. in the £ only, and the balance to be charged at 4s. 6d in the £. If the total income of the widow does not exceed £500 she can claim a further deduction of one-sixth of the total income. If the income exceeds £500 by a small amount she can, if it pays her, claim to pay tax on exactly £500 with the one-sixth allowance, but she will then have also to pay over to the Revenue half of the amount by which her income exceeds £500.

K. B.—The dividends being paid tax free means that the amount of dividend is the net amount after deduction of tax. Thus a dividend of £1 is really a dividend of £1 5s. 9d less 5s. 9d. tax. You can, of course, claim a refund of the tax if you are exempt. If your wife works regularly in the business and there is a definite agreement by which you pay her a wage you could claim this as an expense, but you will be assessable for it, since the wife's income is assessable on the husband. But you could claim an additional allowance up to £45 in respect of wife's earnings. Do you pay National Health Insurance and Employment Insurance on your wife as an employee? If not, it may be difficult for you to satisfy the Revenue that she is a bona fide employee in receipt of wages.

WALL STREET HEAVY.

SELLING RESUMED AT THE OPENING.

NO OUTSTANDING DECLINE RECORDED.

NEW YORK, Saturday.

With week-end mercantile summaries presenting no new viewpoint or any clear forecast as regards general trade, yesterday's selling movement was resumed.

The tendency at the opening was weak, and early recessions were marked by Norfolk and Western which declined 2, Worthington Pump 1¾, New York Central and Pennsylvania 1¼, Chrysler Corporation and New York Consolidated Gas 1¼, Bethlehem Steel and Vanadium ¾, Columbia Gas and Westinghouse Electric ½, Kennecott Copper and Standard Oil of New Jersey ⅜, and U.S. Steel ¼.

There were a few advances which included Atchison Topeka up 2, Corn Products ½, and American Telephone and Telegraph and American Can ¼.

Substantial liquidation developed suggesting the combination of both tax and bear selling, but the list finally stiffened although the undertone was somewhat heavy.

Local tractions were conspicuously strong, due to further rumours of an early announcement of a consolidation agreement. A bright spot in the day's news was an estimate indicating that next week's steel operations in the Youngstown area would be at 37 per cent. against 23 per cent. capacity during Christmas week.

Corn Products Refining were supported in response to the declaration of an extra dividend of 50 cents, and the lifting of restrictions against the use of corn-sugar in food products.

The market at the close was heavy.

Government Bonds steady. Railroad Bonds steady. The day's sales totalled 1,385,000 shares. Money on Call nominal. Sterling Exchange steady. Silver unchanged at 31⅛. —Reuter.

PRODUCE MARKETS.

NEW YORK, Saturday.

Wheat.—Spots: Manitoba firm 1½c. up, Red Winter steady ⅛c. higher. No. 1 Northern Manitoba, 87⅜. No. 2 Hard Winter, unquoted. No. 2 Red Winter, 97½c.

Lard.—Easy at 35 points loss. Prime Western Steam, 10.00. Middle West 9.85 to 9.95.

Petroleum.—Steady. Kerosene, Standard White, in cases for export f.o.b. New York, nominal; barrels for export f.o.b. Philadelphia, nominal. Mid-Continent Crude, 32 to 33.9 per cent. Baume at well, 85c. Pennsylvania Crude, 1.45 to 1.85.

Coffee was dull at the opening, with prices 10 points up to a point down. The undertone ruled steady on covering and a little European buying, and the close was quiet with Rio contracts 11 to 5 points and Santos grades 8 points to 1 point up. Spot unaltered. Rio No. 7, 7¾. Santos No. 4, 10¼. Futures basis, Rio No. 7, January 6.11, March 5.97, May 5.76, July 5.57, September 5.46, October 5.46, December 5.38. Futures basis, Santos No. 4, January 9.17, March 9.02, May 8.77, July 8.62, September 8.51, December, unquoted.

Cocoa.—Spot, 6¢, steady at 2 points rise. Sales, 12 lots, January 6.07, March 6.27, May 6.46, July 6.61, September 6.76, October 6.81.

Sugar.—Market was depressed by liquidation in January contract and selling by houses with European and Cuban connections. Closing was barely steady with futures 4 to 3 points lower. Spot steady and unchanged. 96 Test Centrifugal Cuban Local Spot, 3.22. January, 1.09, March 1.16, May 1.24, July 1.31, September 1.39, October 1.43, December (1931) 1.47.

Rubber.—Outside prices barely steady. First Latex Crêpe Spot, 8⅜ buyers. Smoked Ribbed Sheets Spot 8⅜ buyers 8¼ sellers; January-February-March 8¼ buyers; April-May-June, 8¼ buyers, 8⅜ sellers. Rubber Exchange of New York (Closing) Contract "A"—Steady and unchanged. January 8.50, March 8.60, May 8.80, July 9.0, September 9.20, October 9.30. Sales, 143 lots.—Reuter.

CHICAGO, Saturday.

Wheat opened steady with old contracts ⅛c. higher to ⅛c. lower and new deliveries also ⅛c. up to ⅛c. down. The close was firm, old being ⅛c. higher to unchanged and new unaltered to ⅛c. dearer. December, 76⅜; March, 79¼ to 79⅜; May, 81⅛.

Hogs.—Steady at late rates. The number of hogs packed here during the week totalled 133,000, against 134,000 last week, and 111,000 during the corresponding period last year. Light weight, 8.25 to 8.50; heavy weight 7.50 to 7.80.—Reuter.

WINNIPEG, Saturday.

Wheat opened barely steady and ⅛c. lower. Early declines were due to advices stating that Manitoba wheat was offered to Europe at sixpence decline, coupled with reports that Argentine and Russian shippers were underselling Canadian. The market rallied on reports that some private elevator interests were paying the Canadian pool price for wheat delivered at Fort William, which was regarded as practically establishing a guaranteed price. Expectations of a bullish statement from the Premier, Mr. Bennett, on Wednesday, helped the recovery, the market closing firm and 2¼c. to 1¾c. up. December, 52⅞; May, 55⅝; July, 56⅜.—Reuter.

NEW YORK METALS.

NEW YORK, Saturday.

The following quotations are supplied by Messrs. C. S. Trench and Co.

Copper.—Steady. Lake spot delivered consuming points in middle west, 10.02½ asked; electrolytic spot delivered Connecticut Valley, 10.50 asked; f.a.s. New York prompt delivery, 10.50 asked; f.a.s. New York 30-90 days, 10.50 asked; casting f.o.b. New York refinery, 10.25 asked.

Straits Tin.—Firm spot 25 and January 23 points up. Spot and nearby New York, 27.00; future option, January, 27.00.

Lead.—Steady and unchanged. Spot New York, 5.10; spot East St. Louis, 4.95.

Zinc.—Steady and unaltered. Spot East St. Louis, 4.12½.

Pig Iron.—Steady. Northern No. 2 plain f.o.b. furnace Eastern Pennsylvania, 17.89; No. 2 Plain Buffalo delivery Boston, 18.66.

Copper.—The U.S. Copper Export Association quotes copper c.i.f. Hamburg, 10.55.—Reuter.

CLEVELAND BANK RATE REDUCED.

NEW YORK, Saturday.

The Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, Ohio, has reduced its re-discount rate from 3½ per cent. to 3 per cent. as from Monday, December 29.—Reuter.

INTEREST RATES CUT IN NEW YORK.

NEW YORK, Saturday.

It is announced that, with effect as from to-day, twenty-three banks, members of the New York Clearing House Association, will decrease their interest rates by ½ per cent. to the lowest levels in the history of the clearing-house. The new rates will nov be 1 per cent. on deposits by individuals banks, and trust companies, and 1½ per cent. on deposits by mutual savings banks. The interest rate of 2 per cent. on time deposits remains unchanged.—Ex. Tel.

ERRATIC TREND ON CURB.

SMALL LOSSES AMONG UTILITIES.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

NEW YORK, Saturday.

Following an early selling movement, covering operations substantially cut down losses established in the opening hour. Oils were little changed, but Gulf rose a point, while Utilities mostly eased fractionally.

Among Investment issues American Founders were supported, but Goldman Sachs and United Founders lost slightly. Industrials were undecided, Deere Co., Technicolor, and American Cyanamid "B" declining from fractions to 1 point.

Eng. Equiv	Stocks.	Closing bid. Sat.	Fri.
15/-	Associated Gas and Electric A.	15	15
20/6	Brazilian Traction Light & Power	194½	201⅜
15/6	Cities Service	147⅜	151⅜
3/6	Creole Oil	3	3
40/5	Electric Bond and Share	391¼	395⅜
8/4	Electric Shareholding 6 p.c. Pref.	8	68
23/3	Ford (Canada) voting "A"	231¼	201¼
16/3	Imperial Oil of Canada	16	15⅜
13/8	International Petroleum	13¾	13
16/2	Middle West Utilities	16	16⅜
39/8	Newmont Mining	38	40
9/3	Niagara Hudson Power Corporation	8⅞	8⅞
5/4	Penn Road Corporation	5⅛	5⅛
4/8	Silica Gel. Corporation	4	4¼
34/8	Standard Oil. of Indiana	33⅞

BROADCASTING.

TO-DAY'S PROGRAMMES.

This afternoon John Coates, the well-known tenor, will give a recital on the National programme. The evening service will be relayed from Liverpool Cathedral.

The feature of the London Regional programme this afternoon will be a pianoforte recital by Miklos Schwalb. In the evening Albert Sandler and the Park Lane Hotel Orchestra will broadcast.

NATIONAL (1,554.4 metres).

10.30-10.45 a.m.—Time; Shipping Forecast.
3.0.—Church Cantata No. 152, Bach: Tritt Auf Die Glaubensbahn (Go Thou the Way of Faith); Dorothy Silk (soprano), Stuart Robertson (bass), Gordon Walker (flute), Leon Goossens (oboe), Violet Brough (viola d'amore), Rudolph Dolmetsch (viola da gamba), Douglas Cameron (violoncello), and Victor Watson (bass).
3.55.—For the Children: Joan and Betty's Bible Story, dramatised by Mr. E. R. Appleton: The King's Cup Bearer. 4.15-6.15.—National. 8.0.—National. 8.45.—Mr. H. M. Thompson appeals for Queen's Institute of District Nursing, Cardiff Branch. 8.50.—National. 9.5.—Cardiff University Students' Madrigal Society; the National Orchestra of Wales. 10.30.—Epilogue. 10.40-11.0.—Silent Fellowship.
SWANSEA (288.5 metres).—3.0-6.15.—National. 8.0-9.5.—National. 10.30.—Epilogue. 10.40-11.0.—Cardiff.
BELFAST (242.3 metres).—3.0-6.15.—National. 8.0-8.50.—National. 9.5.—Belfast Wireless Symphony Orchestra; May Turtle (soprano); Harold Fairhurst (violin). 10.30.—Epilogue.
BOURNEMOUTH and PLYMOUTH (288.5 metres).—3.0-6.15.—National. 8.0-9.5.—National. 10.30.—Epilogue.
GLASGOW (398.9 metres) and ABERDEEN (301.5 metres).—3.0.—National. 5.30.—Isaac Losowsky (violin). 6.0-6.15.—National. 8.0.—National. 8.45.—Edinburgh. 8.50-9.5.—National 10.30.—Epilogue.
DUNDEE and EDINBURGH (288.5 metres).—3.0-6.15.—National. 8.0.—National. 8.45.—Rev. Professor W. I. Paterson appeals for Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh (Bi-Centenary Extension Fund). 8.50-9.5.—National. 10.30.—Epilogue.
DUBLIN (413 metres).—8.30.—Piano Recital. 8.45.—Vocal Selections from Operas. 9.15.—Violin Recital. 9.30.—Dramatic Sketch. 10.—Military Band Concert.

INTERESTING ITEMS THIS WEEK.

MONDAY.—6.40.—Bach's Christmas Oratorio (also each evening). 7.45.—"A Pickwick Party." 9.35.—Chamber Music (National). 9.0.—Vaudeville (London Regional and Midland).
TUESDAY.—7.45.—Wireless Military Band (National). 9.0.—"A Pickwick Party" (London Regional and Midland).
WEDNESDAY.—3.30.—Symphony Concert from Bournemouth. 7.45.—Vaudeville. 9.30.—Orchestral Concert of Edward German's Music. 11.10.—"Year Out—Year In" (National). 8.35.—Mozart Programme (London Regional). 10.35.—New Year Eve's Party (Midland).
THURSDAY.—7.45.—Orchestral Concert. 9.35.—Recital by Dale Smith, Cedric Sharpe and Pouishnoff (National). 8.0.—The Wireless Singers (London Regional). 9.0.—"The Babes in the Studio" (Midland).
FRIDAY.—8.0.—'World for Sale." 9.35.—Symphony Concert (National). 6.40.—J. H. Squire Celeste Octet (London Regional). 6.40.—Midland Studio Orchestra (Midland).
SATURDAY.—7.30.—Vaudeville. 9.35.—Wireless Military Band (National). 9.15.—'World for Sale" (London Regional and Midland). 8.30.—"Mainly Dance Music" (Midland).

FOREIGN FEATURES.

BERLIN (418 metres, 1.7 kw.).—4.30.—Dance Music. 7.—Orchestral Concert from Philharmonic Hall.
BUDAPEST (550 metres, 23 kw.).—3.—String Quartet Selections. 4.10.—Concert by Tzigane Orchestra. 5.45.—Orchestral Concert.
COPENHAGEN (281 metres, 1 kw.) and KALUNDBORG (1,153 metres, 10 kw.).—7.2.—Orchestral Concert. 7.50.—Danish Song Recital. 8.30.—Recital of Scandinavian Piano Music. 8.55.—Reading from "The Good Companions" (J. B. Priestley). 9.20.—Orchestral Concert. 10.5.—Dance Music.
HAMBURG (372 metres, 1.5 kw.).—3.0.—Contemporary Composers' Concert. 4.45.—Love Song Recital. 5.30.—Concert from Works of Mac-Dowell. 6.55.—"Fra Diavolo"—Opéra-comique (Auber), from Municipal Theatre.
HILVERSUM (298.8 metres, 8.5 kw.).—2.40.—Concert by Amsterdam Orchestra. 7.55.—"Lakmé"—Opera (Delibes).
HUIZEN (1,875 metres, 8.5 kw.).—2.10.—Concert by Amsterdam A-Cappella Choir with Piano and Violin Solos. 7.55.—Orchestral and Vocal Concert.
MADRID (424 metres, 2 kw).—7.0.—Dance Music. 9.30.—Concert by Orchestra of Spanish Instruments: Selections from Works of Blanco-Recio.
MILAN (501 metres, 8.5 kw.) and TURIN (296.1 metres).—4.0.—Dance Music. 6.30.—Concert. 8.0.—Transmission of an Opera.
OSLO (1,060 metres, 75 kw.).—8.0.—Norwegian Song Recital. 9.5.—Orchestral Concert 10.0.—Gramophone Dance Music.
PARIS (1,725 metres, 17 kw.).—7.30.—Radio-Paris Circus. 8.0.—Musical Programme. 8.45.—Vocal and Instrumental Concert.
PRAGUE (488 metres, 8.5 kw.).—5.0.—Songs (Camillo Horn). 6.0.—Brass Band Concert. 7.0.—Choral Concert.
ROME (441 metres, 75 kw.), relayed by NAPLES (332 metres).—4.0-6.0.—Vocal and Instrumental Concert. 7.40.—"La belle Hélène"—Operetta (Offenbach).
STOCKHOLM (436 metres, 75 kw.) and MOTALA (1,348 metres, 40 kw.).—7.0.—"Carmen"—Opera (Bizet), relayed from Royal Opera House.
STUTTGART (360 metres, 1.7 kw.) and MUHLACKER 75 kw.).—3.0.—Orchestral Concert. 6.30.—Vocal and Instrumental Concert of Sacred Music. 10.20.—Gramophone Dance Music.
TOULOUSE (385 metres, 8 kw.).—5.0.—Dance Music. 8.10.—'Cello Recital. 9.0.—Opera and Opéra-comique Music. 10.0.—Military Music. 10.30.—Spanish Song Recital

MAIL AND STEAMSHIP NEWS.

THE MAILS.

BARADINE (P. and O.) London for Brisbane arrived Adelaide, 27.
BALRANALD (P. and O.) Brisbane for London arrived Colombo, 27.
CITY OF CAIRO (Ell. Hall) Batal for East India Dock passed Gravesend, 27.
CITY OF SPARTA (Ell. City) for Bombay left Suez, 27.
LAHORE (P. and O.) Otarn for London left Hong Kong, 27.
OXFORDSHIRE (Bibby) Rangoon for Tilbury Dock passed Gravesend, 27.
PERIM (P. and O.) London for Yokohama arrived Kobe, 27.
PORT FAIRY (C. and D.) from Hull arrived Sydney, 27.
TILAWA (B. I.) from Calcutta arrived Yokohama, 27.

STEAMSHIP MOVEMENTS.

EKNOREN from Vancouver arrived Sydney, 27.
MAZZINI from Genoa arrived Zanzibar, 27.
OAKBANK from Barry arrived Port Said, 27.
SILVERASH from New York arrived Manila, 27.

BRIDGE.

Conducted by YARBOROUGH.

FAULTY VALUATION.

MR. CULBERTSON'S BOOK.

The basis of bidding is valuation There can be no sound bidding without sound valuation.

The origin of the analysis of the values of high cards was English. Later, Mr. Wilbur Whitehead drew up a complete list of high-card values in terms of Quick Tricks. The important feature of this list is the variation in the values assigned to high cards according to their grouping. Thus, K, Q is one Quick Trick, while K, x is only half a Quick Trick, and, similarly, Q, J, x is half a Quick Trick, while Q, x, x is only a quarter. It we avoid quarter values (and exercise our judgment) we cannot do better than follow the Whitehead list. Mr. Culbertson, in a very informative and useful book ("Contract Bridge Blue Book," just published), works on a modified form of this list for counting Quick Tricks, but introduces a new term, "honour-trick," which I do not consider as appropriate as "Quick Trick." The latter term stresses the idea that the trick is "Quick" because it is taken on the first or second round of play of the suit before ruffing normally begins. This is the outstanding consideration. Together with introducing a new term "honour-trick." Mr. Culbertson introduces some alterations in values, such as regarding K, x and Q, x in different suits as equal to one "honour-trick," and, similarly Q, x and J, x to half an "honour-trick." He also regards K, J, x as one "honour-trick." I do not consider these values sound for the purpose of original bids.

SURE GUARDS FOR ORIGINAL BIDS.

In the case of support bids it is safe to use these values, but if they are used as a basis for original bids, especially in moments when one is flag-flying to save a game, they may lead to disastrous results. Consider the difference between the following two hands:—

HAND I.	HAND II.
♠ K J x x	K J 10
♥ Q x	Q J x
♦ J x x	x x x
♣ A 10 x x	A x x x

Hand No. 2 has 2½ Quick Tricks, justifying a minimum initial bid: hand No. 1 has only 1½ Quick Tricks, but has 2½ "honour-tricks," which is Mr. Culbertson's standard for a minimum original bid. Both hands have the same value in honours when independently estimated (i.e., a Knave over the average), yet there is a very great difference in the strength of the two hands. Touching honours have an effective stopping value, which isolated honours do not possess. With a quite normal distribution opponents might easily make a Small Slam in "No-trumps" against hand No. 1, especially after its honour strength has been located by a bid; there is only one suit really stopped against a run of tricks and a finesse. Hand No. 2 is much stronger owing to the stopping value of touching honours and grouped honours.

The difference between the value of isolated honours and touching honours is too important to be overlooked by the average player when making an original bid.

THE AVERAGE TOTAL OF QUICK TRICKS.

The effect of counting isolated honours in Mr. Culbertson's way is that the average total per deal of (Whitehead) Quick Tricks is increased. The process of increase can be seen in hand 1 above, where 1½ Quick Tricks become 2½ "honour-tricks."

Mr. Culbertson has failed to see this important effect of roping in stray honours so as to give them maximum values, for he refers to a "rule-of-eight," assuming that the average of eight cards (Whitehead) Quick Tricks will be the same for his "honour-tricks." This is wrong. The average of 8 (7.9 actually) for the (Whitehead) Quick Tricks becomes 8.7 for the Culbertson "honour-tricks," a difference of a whole trick for all practical purposes. Mr. J. B. Chambers very kindly worked out this figure of 8.7 at my suggestion. Mr. Culbertson's so-called "rule-of-eight" (incidentally also a figure worked out in this country) should then really be a "rule-of-nine." This is important, as the basis of much Slam-bidding is founded on the total estimate of Quick Tricks or "honour-tricks." If Mr. Culbertson, counting all the values of detached honours, shows the equivalent of seven "honour-tricks" by his own and his partner's bidding and makes a Slam bid (counting on only one missing trick), the chances are against making his contract for there is now every likelihood that two "honour-tricks" are out against him. Fortunately Slam bids are not based only on unreliable theory. Card sense comes to the rescue at a certain stage and is then more accurate than an inventory of "honour-tricks." Slam-bidding, which is helped by Ace-showing (or "feature"-showing), is really the only ultimate safeguard against deals where a high average of "honour-tricks" is present. This is a point which seems to be universally overlooked.

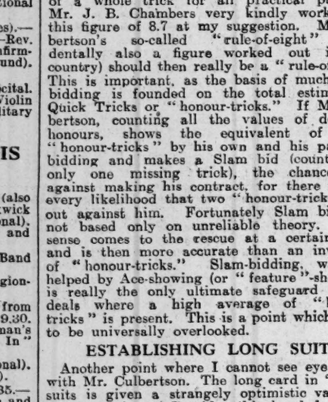
ESTABLISHING LONG SUITS.

Another point where I cannot see eye to eye with Mr. Culbertson. The long card in "side" suits is given a strangely optimistic value on some occasions. Consider this hand from the book:—

♠ 10 9 8 5 4
♥ 9 6 4 3 2
♦ ni
♣ 4 3 2

The partner is bidding Spades, and to him this *supporting hand* is assumed to be worth one trick for length in trumps, half a trick for each of the two Hearts over three in number (the suit being established after three rounds), and three tricks for chicane in Diamonds—in all, five supporting tricks. The weak point in the reasoning here is that it is assumed that the Spades, which have been used up in ruffing three Diamonds, will also serve as cards of re-entry for the long Hearts. It must be borne in mind, too, that opponents often start off with a lead of trumps when there is evidence of bidding on favourable distribution. A weak supporting hand of this type is very useful for flag-flying purposes, but its long cards in "side" suits cannot be seriously counted upon for trick-taking purposes. These criticisms are not intended to lower in any way the higher informative value I set on Mr. Culbertson's book over all other books on the subject of Contract bidding, but simply to put the reader on his guard against accepting 100 per cent. of the views expressed in this or any other book on Contract. If the reader will guard against accepting theory where it is rather faulty he will find the book ably reflects the expert bidding psychology of the present moment. When stripped of its surplus amount of more or less doubtful theory the remainder of the book is a record of bidding procedure which no Contract player can afford to miss reading.

SOLUTION OF LAST WEEK'S PROBLEM.



A leads the King of Clubs and the declarer Z makes the Grand Slam with Hearts as trumps.

Y discards the seven of Diamonds on the first trick, which Z takes with the Ace of Clubs. A trump is now led. Y takes the trick and leads the Ace of Spades, Z discarding the King of Diamonds; Y then leads another Spade, Z ruffing. Another trump is now led. Y takes and leads his last Spade for Z to ruff, who leads a third round of trumps. The trick is taken by Y, who leads out a fourth round of trumps on which Z discards the Ace of Diamonds. Y is now left with five winning Diamonds.

Answers to correspondents are unavoidably held over. These will be forwarded by post wher possible.

LAD ON THE LONELY ISLE.

To the Editor of the SUNDAY TIMES.

Sir,—The lines quoted (incorrectly) by "Inquirer, Hull," should read:—

Sing hey! for the lad on the lonely isle,
For the signal flag and the firing pile,
For the knife-notched stick and the sail at last,
For the lass at home and the perils past, etc.

They are the last verse of the song of "Corkran the Coxswain," pirate and slaver and explorer, in Andrew Balfour's novel, "The Golden Kingdom," published some time after 1902.

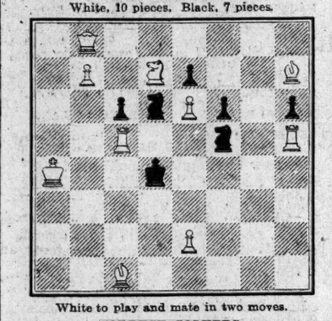
The complete song is to be found in chapter 2. RAYWOOD BENSON (Major).
Forgandenny, Perth.

CHESS.

By L. VAN VLIET.

Solution of Problem No. 2,324: 1. K—R3! If K—K3, 2. Q—B4 (ch), K—B4; 3. Q—Kt4 mate. Or, 2. . . P—Q4; 3. Q—B8! If Black plays 1. K—K5, 2. Q—Q3 (ch), K—B5; 3. B—B sq. If 1. P—Q3, 2. Q—B5! K moves; 3. Q—Q3. If 1. P—K5, 2. Q—B5 (ch), K moves; 3. Q—QB5. If 1. P—B4, 2. Q—Q3 (ch). K—K3; 3. Q—Q6. 1. Q—B5, is defeated by P—R6; 2. K x P, P—Q3!

PROBLEM No. 2,325.—By HENRY A. READ.
White, 10 pieces. Black, 7 pieces.



White to play and mate in two moves.

CORRECT SOLVERS.

Additional correct solutions of Problem No. 2,323 are acknowledged from Cyrus, B. Groswert, Dr. D. H. Fraser, Mala, F. H. Merrick, J. W. Pearson, J. W. Pepper, R. A. L. Ready, E. A. Chamberlain C. V. Bean, and A. Wingate.

The composer of this ingenious problem—Mr. B. J. de C. Andrade—may plume himself for having misled more, usually, correct solvers than we can remember. Fifteen fell to 1. R—Q4, overlooking, P x B! Four sent, 1. R—Q6 (?), overlooking B—Kt2 (ch) and five other foiling moves! Several suggested R—Q7 (?), and one, R—Q8 (??). And then, there were also: R—Kt5, and R—R5 (?). The chief point of the problem, of course, is to shut off the Bishop, at R2, from interposing at B7; and in order to attain this object, great skill was required to avoid a "cook," i.e., a second solution.

Correct solutions of Problem No. 2,324 have been received from J. E. Vaughan ("Charming, as Mr. Hunt's always are"), E. C. de Segundo ("Very neat"), C. H. B. Crosby ("Very neat construction"), Clephane, G. T. Atkinson, J. W. Pepper, M. W. Edgley, F. E. Peake, H. W. Meadows, J. F. Robins, E. Crasnell, A. Grys ("Splendid variations"), Admiral Stuart Nicholson, Brig.-General W. Baker-Brown, D. Corby ("Fine Christmas fare"), F. Hurst ("Clean cut mates"), J. W. Pearson ("A clever and interesting composition"), I. M. Brown ("Cooks' are neatly defeated by 2. . . P—Q4; and 2. . . P—B6"), W. G. Lowe, H. L. Monks ("Key-move very deceptive"), E. G. Barlow ("An interesting problem"), Dr. Edridge-Green, Tramp ("Very pretty mates, and pure"), R. H. Thompson, P. Martin, W. R. Rayer, C. White, V. H. Sladen, W. G. Walrond, J. F. Powell, L. G. Arnold, J. C. Daniel, E. F. Cowen, Dr. D. H. Fraser, B. Groswert, J. R. Wilson, H. H. Greenway, E. J. Baker, A. F. Scott, W. Winter, Rev. H. G. Stembridge, E. B. Bull ("An excellent problem with pleasing variations"), K. S. Frisby, J. Glennie ("Excellent, with several fine mates"), E. A. Chamberlain, E. A. Lassen, H. T. Asche, and H. C. Robson.

A. K. E. (Hove) is thanked for problem.

Correspondents are thanked for seasonable good wishes, cordially reciprocated; and Mr. J. E. Vaughan (Hove) is additionally thanked for his appreciative letter

Further acknowledgments unavoidably held over.

THE THREE KNIGHTS GAME.

Subjoined is an interesting example of the Three Knights Game, played in the International Team Tournament, at Hamburg, between M. K. Larsen (Finland) and Dr. A. Alekhine (representing France):—

White. K. Larsen.	Black. Dr. Alekhine.	White. K. Larsen.	Black. Dr. Alekhine
1 P—K4	P—K4	20 Q x Q	P x Q
2 Kt—KB3	Kt—QB3	21 Kt—B4	Kt—B3
3 Kt—B3	B—Kt5 (a)	22 R—K sq	KR—K sq
4 P—QR3 (b)	B x Kt	23 P—R5	R—K3 !
5 QP x B	Kt—Q5	24 R x R	P x R
6 B—QB4	P—Q3 (c)	25 R—R4 (j)	P—K4
7 B—KKt5 (d)	P—KR3	26 Kt—Q2	P—QKt4
8 B x Kt	Q x B	27 Kt—K4	K—B2
9 Q—Q3	Castles	28 R—Kt4	Kt—K2
10 Castles QR(e)	B—Kt3	29 R—KKt3	P—Kt4 !
11 B—Q5	R—QKt sq	30 P x P	KP x P
12 Q—K3 (f)	P—QR4	31 R—Kt sq	Kt—B3
13 Kt—Q2	Kt—K2	32 R—Q sq	R—K sq
14 Kt—B4	P—R5	33 P—B3	P—Kt5 ! (k)
15 Q—B3 (g)	Q—Kt4 (ch)	34 R—Q5	P—Kt6 !
16 K—R1	B x B	35 R—B5 (ch)	K—K2
17 P—R4? (h)	B x P !	36 R x BP	R—KKt sq !
18 Q x B	Q—B3	37 Kt—B6 (l)	R—Kt4
19 QR—Bsq (i)	Q—B5	38 Kt—Kt4	P—Kt7 !

Resigns (m)

(a) The "Ruy Lopez," with a move behind. More usual is, 3 . . . P—KKt3; followed by B—Kt2; or, 3 . . . B—B4.

(b) The stronger continuation seems, 4. Kt—Q5, or, B—K2 (both sound defences to the "Ruy Lopez"), with a move ahead.

(c) Not Kt x P; 7. B x P (ch), K x B; 8. Q—Q5 (ch), etc.

(d) Playing the adversary's game. Either, 7. Q—K2, or Q—Q3, or P—R3, would have been more judicious.

(e) Nor was this, castles "on the wrong side," well judged: Castles, KR, was at least as good and safer.

(f) Threatening, 13. B x Kt, and 14. Q x QBP.

(g) Something had to be done, as Black threatened P—QKt4; which must either have forced the Kt into a precarious position, at R5, or have won the KP, with Kt x B, etc.

(h) A sad error, instead of P x B.

(i) A better chance of a draw was Kt—Kt4.

(j) This move, and the subsequent, R—Kt4, was only time-wasting, and decreased White's chances of escaping with a draw; which required a strict defensive strategy.

(k) The beginning of the end.

(l) Though unavailing, the only way to prolong the struggle was by 37. Kt x KtP.

(m) A pretty and instructive ending. If 39. R—K4 (ch) R—K4! 40. Kt x B, P—Kt8 (Q) (ch).

VARSITY CHESS.—OXFORD PAST v. CAMBRIDGE PAST.

Played at the City of London Chess Club, the annual Chess match between Oxford Past and Cambridge Past resulted in a victory for the Cambridge team by 9½ to 3½.

HOLIDAY TOURNAMENTS.

To-morrow the eleventh annual Christmas Congress of the Hastings and St. Leonards Chess Club opens at the Waverley Hotel, Hastings, with more than 100 competitors, headed by: J. R. Capablanca, E Colle, Dr. M. Euwe, Miss Vera Menchik, R. P. Michell, Mir Sultan Khan, Sir Geo. A. Thomas, Barl.: T. H. Tylor, W. Winter, and F. D. Yates. The Congress will conclude on January 7.

To-morrow also, the annual Congress of the London Chess League commences at St. Bride Institute, Fleet Street.

ACROSTICS.

DOUBLE ACROSTIC No. 1,353.
(The Fourth of the Quarter.)

These lovers, in our grandsires' age,
Adorned the pantomimic stage.
If now they played, our children's eyes
Their frolic antics might despise.

1. If this were over there,
The weather would be fair.
2. Same head and tail must go
From Albion's mighty foe.
3. Gay scene of mirth; inside
We see a lady hide.
4. An officer, 'tis clear,
Must lose his tenant here.
5. Reverse a fashion, and
Discover Eastern land.
6. What lawyers love, men say,—
But take the fish away.
7. With hundred left and right,
Has length and breadth and height.
8. Greek name and Scotch unite,
Islands may be in sight.
9. Here rhyming crocodile
May bask in mud and smile. W. J. B.

Solutions, addressed to the Acrostic Editor, must reach the office of the SUNDAY TIMES, 135, Fleet Street, London, E.C.4, not later than by first post on Friday next.

DOUBLE ACROSTIC No. 1,352, AND ANSWER.

May they burn brightly, and provide
Comfort and warmth this Christmas-tide.

1. Than measure more, than colour less,
Terror and pain it may express.
2. A knob which, with a certain head,
Recalls an elephant instead.
3. Money before, a card behind,
Missing they will be when combined.
4. Departure, and, within the book
We read the way a people took. Iora.

1. Y E L L
2. U M B O
3. L A C K I N G
4. E X O D U S

Notes.—Light 1. Ell, yellow. 2. Jumbo. 3. Two words, and one.

Acrostic No. 1,351 (Need Deed).—Answers were received from 323 solvers, of whom 310 scored full marks.

No alternative can be admitted for the "Edge" light of No. 1,350.

Kick.—The A.E. regrets that no concession can be made; it would not be fair to other solvers.

LAST QUARTER.

Bevil, Camwin, Leda, Soham, and Stump are the only solvers who gained full marks last quarter, and they will share the prizes, each of them receiving £2. They will be ineligible for acrostic prizes in the current quarter.

Bevil is Miss G. Melville Fowler, Glendower, London Road, Chelmsford, Essex; Camwin is Mr. T. Hughes, 51, Alma Road, Windsor, Berks; Leda is Mr. F. A. Swann, 64, Addiscombe Avenue, Croydon, Surrey; Soham is Mr. P. J. Rust, White Horse Hotel, 17, Earl's Court Square, London, S.W.5; Stump is Mr. G. W. Border, 18, Hamilton Road, Lincoln.

THE ANGLO-INDIAN OF YESTERDAY.

"Up the Country: Letters written to her sister from the Upper Provinces of India." By Emily Eden. (Oxford University Press. 8s. 6d.)

Reviewed by J. M. BULLOCH.

There has arisen of late a commendable fashion of reprinting some old Anglo-Indian diaries. A few years ago we got the invaluable Hickey, and within the past few weeks we have had in quick succession the memories of Augusta Becher and Lady Falkland, both edited by Principal Rawlinson, of the Deccan College at Poona, but neither of them is the equal in charm of the classic letters of Emily Eden, which Mr. Edward Thompson has edited. Unfortunately, none of these books has been annotated as fully as it deserves and as the situation now requires. Many of the gaps in Mrs. Becher's book, especially as regards her own family, the Princeps, and her lively relations the Pattles, have been filled up in a remarkably well-informed review in the current issue of "Bengal: Past and Present," but few readers in this country ever see it. The fact is that the editing of such books—and this applies specially to the minute Hickey—can be done satisfactorily only on a co-operative basis, and especially by students with a genealogical turn of mind, for many of the older Anglo-Indian families ran into regular dynasties. Indeed, a book on such families would supply an admirable category for surveying many of our contributions to India.

Emily Eden.

Miss Eden, whose book first appeared in 1866, belonged to quite an administrative dynasty, for her father, the first Lord Auckland, had been, in turn, Ambassador to Spain and the Netherlands; her uncle, Sir Robert Eden, was Governor of Maryland; her cousin, Thomas Eden, was Secretary to the Governor of Ceylon; and her brother George, the second Lord Auckland, was Governor-General of India from 1835 to 1841. During that period Emily acted not only as official hostess for him, but his austerity, which led Greville to say that he was "almost forbidding in his manner," made her, as she tells us, "his only confidant."

Although Auckland was advanced to an earldom during his term of office, his Governor-Generalship, which precipitated the disastrous Afghan war, was anything but happy, though it may not deserve the typically mordant criticism of Mr. Vicary Gibbs that "his impolicy in entering this campaign was only equalled by his pusillanimity after our disasters had been incurred."

The "Close-Up" of Long Ago.

Miss Eden is scarcely to be followed on the purely political side, and certainly not in her account of the Afghan campaign, which, as Mr. Thompson remarks, "reflects very vividly the reckless fierceness and spirit of revenge that inspired those guiding affairs in India and its borders." But as an inquiring and rather ironic commentator on the people of the period, native and British alike, she proved a master of what the present generation knows as the "close-up." What could be better than the portrait of the seven-year-old Pertab Singh, "with eyes as big as saucers and emeralds bigger than his eyes"? Nor does she forget Eurasians like the Skinners, the sons of a Scot and a Rajput lady—James, the creator of Skinner's Horse, with his "zenana and heaps of black sons, like any other native," and his brother, Major Robert, "the same sort of melodramatic character," who, suspecting (unjustly) "one of his wives of a slight ecarté from the path of propriety," cut off the head of every individual in his household and then shot himself.

FENCING.

"The Art of Fencing: A Practical Manual for Foil, Epée, and Sabre." By R. A. Lidstone. (Witherby. 10s. 6d.)

Reviewed by LEON BERTRAND.

Fencing is beginning to flourish at last in this country, and it needs and deserves all the publicity that can be given to an art which the Briton has so shamefully neglected in the past. If only on this account the latest contribution to fencing literature must be welcomed.

In this handsomely dressed and profusely illustrated volume I hoped to find a clarion call to arms, a note of inspiration and enthusiasm, but the author disarms criticism by the studied moderation of his claim; it is a textbook, nothing more nor less, and I think that in his modesty and diffidence Mr. Lidstone does himself an injustice. What a golden opportunity for propaganda!

The chapters devoted to the foil and epée are generally sound and comprehensive, but I like not in several instances the author's anglicisation of fencing terms. It is tampering with the traditions of a Continental art; it is rather encouraging that insularity of spirit which is one of the British fencer's greatest faults, and which he must overcome if he would vie with his Latin brother. As well discard "Allegro," "Andante," "Fortissimo." Such terms as "Loose-play," "The Effort"—a strange one this—"The Tension," "The Slip," "The Gain," are not palatable.

The final chapters deal with the sabre, and there are a number of tabulated exercises which should prove of the greatest assistance to the diligent student. A few technical errors, however, creep in, such as the description of a parry called Low Septime. After explaining that the sabre target comprises the whole of the body *above the hips*, the author states that ". . . it is only suitable for resisting cuts and thrusts at the knee when they are allowed"! There is, moreover, a certain confusion in the classification and in defining the functions of the third and fourth parries.

So far as they go, Mr. Lidstone's admonitions on the subject of hard hitting are sound, but I fear his experiences must have been happier than mine when he says that there has been an improvement in this respect for some years past. Again, his advice as to the comportment of contestants is quite proper and correct. He reminds the combatant that referee and judges "can see far better than he can." These oft-maligned officials will no doubt blush at this unsolicited and unexpected testimonial.

Couched in simple and direct language, easy to follow, this work is a worthy addition to the too scanty library of books on modern fencing.

EDWARD MARTYN.

"Edward Martyn and the Irish Revival." By Denis Gwynn. (Cape. 12s. 6d.)

"An unhappy, childless, unfinished, laborious man, typical of an Ireland that is passing away"—so Mr. Yeats wrote of Edward Martyn. Mr. Gwynn questions that estimate; his book shows us an Edward Martyn who, far from being unfinished, played a weighty part in the Irish revival.

"The Irish Literary Theatre and the Abbey Theatre which arose from its early beginnings," says Mr. Gwynn, "would never have come into existence if it had not been for the public spirit and the enthusiasm of Edward Martyn." And this controversial and, at the same time, solid biography is devoted to proving that point, to showing the importance of Martyn in the literary and æsthetic renaissance of his country. Mr. Gwynn in his introduction gives an account of the friendship between Martyn and Mr. George Moore. "I noticed," says Mr. Moore in an acid passage,

his great square hands with strong fingers and square nails pared closely away, and as heretofore I admired the curve of the great belly, the thickness of the thighs, the length and breadth of his foot hanging over the edge of the sofa, the apoplectic neck falling into great rolls of flesh, the humid eyes, the skull covered with short stubbly hair.

"A little old man," retorted Martyn,

with a plump body, short thick legs, very broad hips, very sloping shoulders, a long neck and a pasty, almost featureless face, surmounted by what was once very red, but is now sandy hair streaked with grey.

An odd but lively friendship; and indeed Martyn's life was full of vivid encounters and enthusiasms. Mr. Gwynn tells his story with vigour and delicacy, and a great deal of sympathy.

EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY STUDIES.

"Grands Seigneurs et Bourgeois d'Angleterre." By Roger Boutet de Monvel. With six full-page plates. (Paris, Plon. 15 frs.)

Reviewed by LAURIE MAGNUS.

This is a very pleasant book, written with an attractive touch of irony, which perhaps we are right in finding even in the title of the volume. For, while grand seigneurs is a familiar phrase, the bourgeois are not commonly described by that epithet. But M. Boutet de Monvel, who is not studying English society for the first time (his "George Brummell and George IV." may be remembered), has selected his specimens skilfully. There are three essays in this book, on George Augustus Selwyn, Fanny Burney, and Beckford respectively, and of these Miss Burney, the chief bourgeoise, is the most sympathetically drawn.

The irony plays mostly about Selwyn, "un gentleman," as he is inevitably called, "who accommodated himself marvellously well to the methods of corruption then in vogue in the United Kingdom." Things were different then, as our author remarks, with a shrewd glance at the standards of public life in present-day France (or is it England?):

"Pour nous autres" (he writes) men of the twentieth century, fed on immortal principles, ignorant of the traffic in bribes, accustomed always to look to merit as the sole test of reward, and to see every servant of the State competent to fill his allotted place, "il y a là de quoi crier au scandale." But in England under the Georges, more indulgence was shown, and more opportunity was given for convenient abuses and for the petty profits that might be drawn from them.

And the philosopher will observe, he adds, that England increased and prospered under that régime.

At the Court of George III.

But the middle essay, on Miss Burney, is the best of the three. We feel that M. Boutet de Monvel really loves that shy genius of the middle class, who spent a few desolate years at the dull, decorous Court of George and Charlotte, before and during the King's first bout of illness. The name of Miss Burney, he tells us, is practically unknown in France, and even in England, he conjectures, her writings are not very widely read. She had become a myth before her death in 1840 at the age of 88; and, ninety years afterwards, she is not a much more familiar figure. It is the charm of the present study that it restores her in her habit as she lived. We are shown her silent girlhood in the busy home of her widowed father, the music-teacher, who received at his house in St. Martin Street a crowd of celebrities, seen by Fanny but hardly seeing her. Then came "Evelina," and its author's paroxysms of shyness. She was the great exception to the rule of author's vanity, and never credited her very good reviews. Still, Cecilia followed Evelina, and in 1785 Fanny paid her first visit to Windsor as the guest of Mrs. Delany, where, at last, she could not escape a meeting with the King and Queen. In the next year came the retirement of Mrs. Haggerdorn, a German lady attached to the Court, and Fanny's reluctant acceptance of the unsought offer of the post of a minor lady of the robes.

She saw herself torn from her family and friends, from everything that made life pleasant to her, sequestered in a palace, like a nun in a convent, constrained to painful etiquette, reduced to fastidious and tyrannical tasks. And Miss Burney saw aright.

In Correction of Macaulay.

We must not follow this story in detail, fascinating though they are. It loses nothing in M. de Monvel's lucid narrative, and it is pleasant to find him fully competent to correct some of Macaulay's conclusions. Professor Trevelyan, in his new book on Blenheim, says that his great uncle could only write in black and white, "but never in grey"; and it is a grey, a kind of silver-grey tone, which our French author, drawing on his Gallic sympathy, spreads on this tale of Fanny, her father, her fellow-tire-women, and her royal employers. A truer picture of the circumstances in the times will be found in these pages than in Macaulay's reconstruction of the facts in the harsher light of his own times.

A SUCCESSFUL DIPLOMAT.

"Henry White." By Allan Nevins. (Harper. 21s.)

Reviewed by MILTON WALDMAN.

Amongst the names in American diplomacy which are familiar to Europeans practically none is that of a professional diplomat. Page was a successful editor and publisher, Choate and John W. Davis were lawyers, Lowell a man of letters, Herrick and Mr. Dawes, the present Ambassador to the Court of St. James's, bankers. Thus, there was little incentive to an ambitious youth to enter a profession whose highest places were by tradition closed to him and given to outsiders.

Henry White was one of the rare exceptions. A young man of aristocratic breeding and tradition, scion of a rich family, and husband of a rich woman, he was under no compulsion to squabble for money and position in the ordinary forms of American competition. He belonged to the generation which, consciously or secretly, yearned for another life than that which America could give, bankering after Europe in a curiously romantic fashion that in no way conflicted with its pride in America. Other examples of this same feeling were Henry Adams and Henry James. Through influence the early stages of Henry White's progress in the diplomatic service were made easy, and he finally attained two of its choicest positions, the Embassy at Rome and that at Paris.

A "Well-Meaning American Gentleman."

Mr. Nevins makes it clear in this careful, scholarly, and honest biography that by temperament White was successful rather on the social side of his career, in the broadest sense, than on the political. He was an amiable, pleasant, cultured gentleman who liked people and unreflectively expected them to like him, which they almost invariably did; he was utterly honest with an honesty that sprang from his nature and no motives of policy, but here he gave a good deal less than he received. It is this fact as much as any that will keep him from being remembered as a great ambassador. In ordinary intercourse with the politicians of the countries to which he was accredited he was conspicuously successful, but in times of stress and passion the ruthlessness, intrigues, and mutual hatreds of European politicians found him almost as unprepared as was his chief at the Conference of Versailles, President Wilson.

No one can read Mr. Nevins's lucid and completely documented account of the Algeciras Conference without perceiving that the French Foreign Office was using this well-meaning American gentleman as a tool in putting one over on Germany—and getting away with it. His record at Paris in 1919 is equally exemplary without being greatly distinguished; it is significant that of all the Republicans he might have chosen to accompany him on his momentous mission Wilson selected White. He required a man who knew Europe, a man of experience, but one who would agree with him rather than attempt to guide him, and White seems to have fitted the rôle very well. He was as loyal to the Democratic President as he had been to Roosevelt and Taft, both Republicans; loyalty was as ingrained in his nature as truth and honesty.

He attempted, vainly, to reconcile the hostile Republican factions in the Senate with the President and so secure the passage of the Treaty, but he had neither strength nor influence for so herculean—perhaps impossible—a task.

America and Europe.

It is not the least of the author's accomplishments that in a book teeming with documents and controversial matter he contrives to gain the reader's respect and affection for his subject without exaggerating the latter's abilities or historical importance. I know of no better book to introduce the English reader to the growing interest which the American Government began to take in

THE DRAMATIC WORLD.

THE PANTOMIMES.

By JAMES AGATE.

Lyceum. Wednesday Afternoon, Dec. 24.

"ROBINSON CRUSOE."

Written and Produced by Walter and Frederick Melville. Music by Charles J. Moore.

Dominion. Wednesday, Dec. 24.

"ALADDIN."

Book by Lauri Wylie, F. V. Maxwell-Stewart, and Julian Wylie. Music by Jas. W. Tate and E. W. Eyre.

The pantomimes at the Lyceum Theatre have the considerable merit of being newly minted. The mould of one Christmas may bear a family likeness to that of another, but we have glistening assurance that the coins which the Melville Bank issues each year are being put into circulation for the first time. This is the happy result of having a mint on the premises. Other impresarios, other habits. To the pantomime-producer who knows not where next year he will lay his head, new creation is obviously an impossibility, and that is the reason why London must sometimes take her delight in that which pleased Manchester last Christmas or Glasgow seven years ago. Whether you like your pantomime to be old or new largely depends upon whether you prefer the tag about old friends being the best to the cliché embodying the charm of novelty. If you are a child the distinction ceases, and for the highly metaphysical reason that for anybody who has not yet learned to read, Defoe has not yet written his masterpiece.

A Children's Show.

Uncles desiring a peaceful afternoon would perhaps be well-advised not to take to the Lyceum a nephew too recently conversant with that work. Otherwise they will be exposed to a rain of questions impossible of answer. Why is there so little in the book about Will Atkins and Mrs. Crusoe? Were the boatswain and mate on Crusoe's ship really so funny? When is the story going to begin? To this one vaguely replies that we shall probably land on Juan Fernandez in the second part. Questions resumed:—How does Crusoe manage to shave? Who gave Man Friday his signet-ring? Whence comes it that that savage, two minutes after conversing by signs alone, should show an intimate knowledge of the Cockney language? Why, after a desperate battle on two sides of a stockade, which I agree is like the one in "Masterman Ready," should the cannibal chief be found dancing a hornpipe with his so recently intended victim? These questions, and the lack of any possible answer, prove what the priggish would call the educational value of "Robinson Crusoe." This admirable pantomime certainly stimulated one young mind as well as entertained it.

The second part was largely given over to Mr. George Jackley and Messrs. Naughton and Gold, who, after the deplorable manner of the best fiddlers, made their individual cadenzas more important than the concerto they adorned. There was a scene in which Mr. Jackley and Mr. Naughton, having contrived to get themselves invited to a box on the dress-circle level, thence exchanged discourtesies with Mr. Gold remaining on the stage. After this Mr. Jackley conjured, still with the same unhelpful assistance, and then Mr. Jackley, who seemed to be in better form than ever, invited the house to go into committee on the important question: "Does a Puff-Puff Go Choo-Choo?" Not by Honegger.

Afterwards "The Marvellous Max Theilon Troupe" performed, not on this occasion very successfully. A wit has said that people who jump to conclusions rarely alight on them, and the result of much of this hurtling from a spring-board was that the somersaulters frequently failed to alight on shoulders prepared to receive. Perhaps, as Dr. Johnson nearly said, these young gentlemen will be more marvellous by-and-by. For the rest, everybody voted the Crusoe of Miss Kitty Reidy and the Principal Girl of Miss Constance Carpenter to be huge successes, the show was nicely sprinkled with envenomed allusions to the Income Tax, Council houses, and common informers, there was a great deal of serviceable magnificence, and the usual number of spry young ladies whose function it is to carry banners did so in loyal adherence to the sheepish tradition.

An Architectural Matter.

I approach the subject of "Aladdin" with some diffidence, since, frankly, this show did not quite come up to my personal expectation. Perhaps the theatre was responsible for something of this. Whoever built the Lyceum knew that the old horseshoe model, with boxes at each end, is the best in this respect—that it enables actors to pour their performances into a cup specially prepared to receive it. Things are quite different in theatres which, like the Dominion, are built with more than half an eye to the screen. Here there are no boxes to speak of, the horseshoe diminishes to a semicircle, and a good deal of the performance escapes, so to speak, into the wings. One knows quite well what Miss Nellie Wallace can do, and there was the evidence of one's eyes that she was giving heroically and exhaustively of her superabundant energy. Yet she did not "get over" in her usual fashion, since, in addition to the acoustic difficulties, it would appear to be impossible for a player to hold both sides of this huge house at once. Mr. Wylie has obviously been conscious of the difficulty, since he has tried to diminish the size of the stage by an inner proscenium, and in this show to concentrate principally upon spectacle.

Here again I don't quite know what to say, for though some of the stage-settings were good, the design and colouring of the costumes struck me as almost uniformly hideous. To my considerable astonishment the programme attributed these costumes to Mesdames Calthrop, Zinkeisen, and Dolly Tree, who have done such marvels for Mr. Cochran. Perhaps, before deciding whether these ladies have run completely out of form, one should be told the exact date of their efforts. The programme announces the music as having been "composed, selected and arranged by Jas. W. Tate and E. W. Eyre." Now, since the former died some seven years ago, this would seem to date not only the pantomime but possibly the efforts of the costume-designers. I have already alluded to Miss Wallace who, with the handicap of appearing to be acting over the way, did valiantly. Mr. Lupino Lane had not many opportunities to be funny, though he tumbled perhaps as well as ever.

The Principal Boy was that firm favourite, Miss Ella Retford, whose performance, if a shade less nimble than of yore, retained the old warm-heartedness. If archness be a virtue in Principal Girls, then Miss Stella Browne acquired inordinate merit; she certainly sang very well. But I shall on this occasion divide first marks between Mr. George Atterbury for that captivating animal, Bonzo, and some forty children for their captivating little selves. Halfway through the show the supply of original music seemed to run out, and we were entertained with Bishon, Rossini, and lots and lots of Grieg, jazzed up according to the fashion of some years ago. It is only fair to add that the normal spectator did not appear to endorse any of my views on this production. But then the normal spectator presumably did not arrive at this theatre in the same condition as the exhausted dramatic critics, who necessarily approach the last of many Christmas entertainments, in the words of a lamented poet, "as sobbing runners breast the tape."

Criterion. Tuesday, December 23.

"A PAIR OF TROUSERS."

A Comedy. By Frederick Jackson.

Act One. Mme. Reneaux (Mlle. Delysia) packed a number of fashionables, including her fiancé, off to the theatre in order to enjoy "a good read" in an excessively complicated peignoir made possible by putting the whole of her year's income on the Derby winner at an outside price. It was inconceivable that this frivolous widow should ever have opened a book, but presumably the author could not think of any other way of isolating her in her luxuriously appointed flat. The lady had not been alone two minutes when good-looking Stephen Lanion, her landlord (Mr. Ian Hunter), arrived to discuss a clause in his tenant's lease. That a landlord should do this in a dinner jacket and at theatre-time is another heartening example of the revolt from the well-made play!

Mme. Reneaux, however, made her visitor at home upon the sofa, and presently the wish became mother to all kinds of thoughts. But Stephen, being married, cleverly side-tracked the lady by proposing to straighten a crooked picture. This necessitated a pair of steps, from the top of which Stephen fell and in so doing tore his trousers, which had to be taken off and mended. The widow was being very bright about this and these when the fashionables came back from the theatre, having forgotten their tickets. So Stephen had to be bundled into a bedroom, whence he soliloquised so loudly about his trousers that he was overheard and detected. This led to scandal and—

Act Two, in which very little happened except that a dinner-party was given by Stephen, at which his wife was to be very nice to the widow and thus put an end to All That Gossip about which in real life nobody cares two hoots, but without which most drawing-room plays cannot end and this one could never have begun. Its author could not even continue in the same key, for the widow who asked nothing better than a flirtation flew into paroxysms of umbrage at the mere suggestion that she had started one. Indeed, for five minutes, we were invited to become Quite Serious. But this was forgotten in—

Act Three, where nothing at all happened except that we waited till eleven o'clock at which time Stephen again fell off the ladder, or pretended to, and once more his trousers had to be mended, or he pretended so. And then it was eleven o'clock, and we could go home.

It has been laid down since the time of Hazlitt that what any player does with his or her countenance is as much legitimate matter for comment as the brushwork of a painter. The analogy is closer than most. This being so I shall deplore that Mlle. Delysia should have joined that school of feminine thought which holds the human face to be made comelier by denuding it of eyebrows. As this actress now wears her hair pushed away from the forehead, the result is a sacrifice justifiable only in the cause of a play demanding noble expanse of brow antlered with deep thought. This particular piece demands nothing of the kind, and I suggest that Mlle. Delysia should at once reinforce her familiar vivacity with her well-known beauty. As Lady Bracknell said in another connection, I should strongly advise this charming actress to make a definite effort to produce at any rate one eyebrow before the season is over.

The piece is badly miscast throughout, the mistake being made of engaging a number of our most talented artists in comedy when what was wanted, of course, was a collection of experts in buffoonery. Mr. Ivo Dawson alone seemed to understand this. Mr. Ian Hunter, playing quite seriously, cannot have hoped to be anything but agreeably dull, and nobody else had anything to do except to pretend to be "county" and look shocked. Miss Jane Wood wandered about in chains of diamonds, Miss Violet Vanbrugh was aloof and austere in corners and ropes of pearls, Miss Grizelda Hervey nibbled at a character-part which was immediately snatched from her, and incidentally the trio wore confections of such glamour that even at a Durbar they must have been over-dressed. I did not think I should live to see the day in which any playwright would dare to bring on Miss Vanbrugh in a third act without giving her anything whatever to do, and, I think, nothing to say. But this wide-awake artist immediately took subtle revenge by whisking about the apartment in black tulle and so much distinction that one had no eyes or ears for anything or anybody else. There were five minutes in the second act when Miss Cecily Byrne, by some good natural acting, blew the piece sky-high. But it came down again, alas!

Court. Friday Afternoon, December 26.

"A BUSINESS MARRIAGE."

A Comedy.

This piece has been produced after the manner of the young lady's description of a fashionable wedding:—"My dear, it took place in a blaze of secrecy!" The programme does not tell us who presents the play, or who wrote it, or who was responsible for the scenery. I can bear that knowledge should be withheld on the first two points, but I confess that I should dearly like to know the name of the scenic artist who devised a setting for "Diana Middlesham's Country House in the Midlands" so flamboyant that against it Mr. A. Bromley-Davenport in hunting pink, Miss Athene Seyler in geranium, and Mr. D. A. Clarke-Smith in claret were barely discernible. Confusion here hath made his masterpiece.

The unknown author did his, her, or their best to live up to the scenery, and perhaps a detailed account of the convolutions of this engaging nonsense will not, at this season of the year, be too drastically insisted upon. Sufficient to say that Diana, who was an M.F.H., wanted a husband to manage her business affairs, and meeting a wandering Duke, who had been salmon-canning in Newfoundland, engaged him. The programme continued the story thus:—"In the event of his proving in every way satisfactory, Diana might at the end of three months make the man her husband, but only on the distinct understanding that the marriage would be a business marriage pure and simple. There would, of course, be no question of kiddies or anything of that sort." Surely, it would be churlish to bring to matter such as this criticism, "or anything of that sort?" The players worked feverishly, and it is quite on the cards that holiday folk will enjoy an afternoon or evening here as much as anywhere else.

CHRISTMAS SHOWS

SOME OLD FAVOURITES.

Whether the Christmas playgoer is really as conservative as managers suppose, or whether managers put on the old Christmas plays because they do not believe that the public would patronise new ones, is perhaps not a matter to be determined here. The fact remains that all the old favourites are with us again. The New Theatre entertains "Charley's Aunt," while the Apollo once more offers hospitality to "The Private Secretary." Mr. John Mills and Mr. Charles Walenn respectively and with all possible credit sustain the leading parts in these two immortal farces, though one must not overlook the admirable performance of Cattermole in the latter piece by that excellent actor, Mr. Fewlass Llewellyn. The production of "Charley's Aunt" is inclined to become a little over-modern; that of "The Private Secretary," in which almost the only modern note was the arrival of the visitors in a motor-car, sticks manfully to the older policy. Nevertheless, metaphysicians might do worse than define infinity in terms of these never-ending successes.

Every afternoon at the Palladium "Peter Pan" again invites us to ratify our belief in fairies. The Peter and the Wendy are the same as last year; one can only hope that neither will ever grow any older. Miss Forbes-Robertson's lovely performance has lost no whit of its feyness and grace. Miss Mary Casson's Wendy has both charm and fun, while Master Freddie Springett as the valiant Michael covers himself with glory.

At the Holborn Empire we can once again see "Where the Rainbow Ends," which contrives to be at once stirring and fantastic. Surely at the Prince of Wales's "Treasure Island," with Mr. Baliol Holloway excellent in the part of Long John Silver, must make every little girl miserable at not being a little boy; and the Savoy offers a delightful new musical version of "Alice in Wonderland," in which Miss Phyllis Bedells dances entrancingly and Miss Joy Blackwood, who is but 12, succeeds in looking as ageless as Tenniel's Alice while achieving a great deal of the courage, crossness, and captivation of Lewis Carroll's. These three plays, like "Peter Pan," are to be seen at matinées only.

At the Everyman Theatre there is an entirely new show which should please the children mightily. This is called "Land of the Christmas Stocking," is based on well-known nursery rhymes, and, in the jargon of the day, "features" Miss Marie Dainton and Mr. Lawrence Hanray. There must be enterprise in the Hampstead air, since the Embassy is presenting another new play, "Carpet Slippers," from the wholly inspired pen of Mr. W. A. Darlington, the author of "Alf's Button."

There is the usual riot of pantomimes. Apart from those of which an account is given elsewhere, we note the following:—"Babes in the Wood" at Lewisham Hippodrome, "Aladdin" at the Borough, Stratford, "Dick Whittington" at Brixton, "Dick Whittington" at Croydon, "Aladdin" at Richmond, and "Robinson Crusoe" at the Artillery, Woolwich. The King's Theatre, Hammersmith, is putting on "Cinderella," with that admirable principal boy, Miss Ouida Macdermott, as the Prince. In "Jack and the Beanstalk" the Children's Theatre offers a real children's pantomime, while at the Scala "The Windmill Man" is in residence in place of the usual pantomime.

Turning to more serious matters, the Winter Garden has re-opened with "Follow a Star," without Miss Tucker, but with Miss Maisie Gay, so that what this show has lost on the swings it will presumably gain on the roundabouts. The Royalty revives "No. 17," in which Mr. Leon M. Lion will for some weeks, and to his heart's content, play the giddy, if affrighted, goat which is that play's hero. Drury Lane is fixed to open on or about January 5 with "The Song of the Drum"; the postponement has been due, as everybody knows, to the indisposition of Mr. Bobby Howes. And to-night, at the Arts Theatre, Signor Gorno's delicious Italian marionettes will once more give their flesh-and-blood colleagues a lesson in how not to be wooden.

THE OLYMPIA CIRCUS.

Captain Mills's selective and collective genius continues to hold the four corners of this globe in fee. His circus this year is not better than ever for the one sufficient and convincing reason. But it lives up to its own almost impossibly high standard. The Brothers Schumann still look almost as glossy as their horses, while the 16-year-old daughter of one of them makes her first appearance here. Whether this high-school little lady rides well or not I do not know; it seems to me that that extremely clever black horse could continue in his job if the variest duffer mounted him. However, Miss Ceciele is undoubtedly very graceful.

There are the usual whirlwind Arabs—why are Arabians never happy except under humming-top conditions?—Chinese jugglers, Hungarian midgets, and acrobatics of no nationality in particular. There is a performance by some magnificent if rather jaded lions. Could not Captain Mills contrive to make these look less bored? Why not introduce a politician into the cage at each performance, always with a nice impartiality? There is a high-wire act which made me exquisitely apprehensive, and which should stir the pulse of even the brightest and youngest. Last, there are some heavenly seals and there is no abatement of the diabolic noise.

FILM NOTES.

FLASHLIGHTS FOR THE HOLIDAYS.

By SYDNEY W. CARROLL.

It occurs to me that holiday makers in London may be glad of a tabloid guide to the chief pictures now on show at the leading cinemas. I hope next week to review the principal films of the year, both talking and silent.

Tivoli: "One Heavenly Night."—Evelyn Laye's first talkie. A Hollywood effort on the light side directed by George Fitzmaurice. Miss Laye scores a personal triumph. John Boles, a pleasing tenor, in support. Comic relief rather trying. Buda Pesth setting.

Empire: "Billy the Kid."—Worth seeing for Wallace Beery's Sheriff and the attractive Kay Johnson. John Mack Brown plays the title-rôle.

Plaza: "Manslaughter."—Powerful melodrama, full of sensation and thrills. George Abbott, director, has had the advantage of Cecil de Mille's original silent picture, and now converts it into a talkie. Charming Claudette Colbert and handsome Fredric March play the principal parts. The story is one of vengeance that acts in boomerang fashion.

* * *

New Gallery: "The Big Trail."—A Western drama, admirably directed by Raoul Walsh. Picturesque and savage scenes of pioneer life, romance, and adventure, with John Wayne and Tyrone Power.

Marble Arch Pavilion: "Canaries Sometimes Sing."—Tom Walls's most successful picture. In the cast, a perfect one, Walls himself, Athole Stewart, Yvonne Arnaud, and Cathleen Nesbitt, a filmic quartet of comic brilliance.

Capitol: "Oh For a Man."—That exquisite actress Jeannette Macdonald of "Love Parade" fame, starring with Reginald Denny. A singing and talking picture of first-class merit. The story of a marriage contracted between a burglar and an operatic star, exceptionally cynical and sophisticated.

Astoria.—"Whoppee."—Eddie Cantor's superlative comic escapade. As amusing a Hebrew musical talkie as has been exhibited.

* * *

Carlton: "Animal Crackers."—The Four Marx Brothers in the craziest and wildest pantomime. You will either rejoice in this or hate it; no half views are possible.

Regal: "The Middle Watch."—A most entertaining and lightly-written comedy with Owen Nares, Jacqueline Logan and Dodo Watts. A naval absurdity admirably produced.

London Pavilion: "Hell's Angels."—The most sensational and extraordinary picture now on show. The aviation and Zeppelin scenes amazingly clever and staggering.

Leicester Square: "Viennese Nights."—Good music, nonsensical story, picturesque settings.

WOMEN OF TO-DAY.

ABIDING FAITH OF A POPULAR NOVELIST.

Vicki Baum, the writer of "Grand Hotel," one of the outstanding novels of the year, as it is one of the most popular, writes a special article which will appear in the "Daily Telegraph" to-morrow on women generally.

The German authoress will have nothing to do with the pessimists' belief that the woman of to-day is losing her femininity. She asserts that, generally speaking, women are becoming prettier. She has not turned into a semi-masculine being. But Vicki Baum detects a "slight move in the direction of becoming gentlemanly."

The article will intrigue by reason of its novel outlook and its quietly amusing, but reassuring analysis of woman as we know her to-day.

PLAYS AND PLAYERS

THIS WEEK'S PREMIERES.

To-day.—Arts: Italian Marionette Players.
Dec. 29.—Phœnix: "The Dybuk" (Habima Players).
Fortune: "A Christmas Carol" and "A Pantomime Rehearsal" (People's Theatre).
Jan. 1.—Phœnix: "Twelfth Night" (matinée). "The Crown of David" (evening).
Jan. 3.—Phœnix: "The Golem."

The visit of the Habima Players, who open a fortnight's season at the Phœnix to-morrow, is a theatrical event of some importance; critics in both Europe and America have declared that the Hebrew language offers no bar to the understanding of the performance of these brilliant artists, among whose admirers are numbered Einstein and Thomas Mann. In addition to the programme announced for the first week their repertoire includes "Jacob's Dream," "The Eternal Jew," "The Deluge," and "As You Like It."

"The First Mrs. Fraser," at the Haymarket, will break the last of the records of that theatre on Tuesday, when it will reach its 618th performance. "Bunty Pulls the Strings" scored 617. The piece, however, is near its end; and on January 14 "Colonel Satan," Booth Tarkington's new play, will succeed it. Mr. Henry Ainley is to play Aaron Burr, a romantic character in American history, who was born in New Jersey in 1756 and died in Staten Island in 1836 and who served with distinction in the War of Independence before he became a great New York lawyer and Vice-President of the United States. The author is anxious to emphasize the fact that the play is neither history nor biography, but a comedy-drama which shows Burr at the most romantic period of his life—at a time when he was in conflict both with his own government and with the French. The action passes in one night; members of the cast not previously announced will be Miss May Agate, Miss Lilian Cavanagh, Mr. Jack Livesey, Mr. Nigel Bruce, and Mr. Esmé Percy.

Despite the competition from the Christmas shows proper, many of the "straight" plays in the West End are doing excellent business. "The Barretts of Wimpole Street" at the Queen's Theatre continues to be a brilliant success. "To See Ourselves," Miss E. M. Delafield's play at the Ambassadors, has made an auspicious start; it was a good idea to prefix some of Miss Elizabeth Pollock's impersonations as a curtain-raiser to the piece. And at the St. James's "A Murder Has Been Arranged" is proving itself a popular entertainment.

It is good news that Mr. Gilbert Miller and the New York Theatre Guild are bringing Mr. Eugene O'Neill's play, "Strange Interlude," to London towards the end of January. "Strange Interlude" has had a great success in America. It will be played in England by a cast including Miss Mary Ellis (recently seen in a none too fortunate production at the Ambassadors) and Mr. Basil Sydney. The last time Mr. Miller and the Theatre Guild were associated in London was when "Caprice" was presented at the St. James's. The theatre for "Strange Interlude" is not yet settled, but it will certainly be prevented by Mr. Emlyn Williams's play from having the same home as "Caprice."

When Mr. Cochran opens his variety entertainment at the Palace Theatre to-morrow week Miss Ivy St. Helier, whose performance in "Bitter Sweet" has attracted so much attention, will be among those contributing to the programme. The Four Marx Brothers in the flesh are, of course, among the main attractions.

"Happy and Glorious" at the Gate has been so successful that its run is being extended till next Saturday; but patrons of this little theatre are not to be defrauded of their Christmas joke. Early next week Mr. Peter Godfrey and Mr. Charles Spencer will present "Little Lord Fauntleroy," which, enlivened by songs of the period, should prove a worthy sucessor to "Fashion" and "Ten Nights in a Bar-Room." Miss Elsa Lanchester, I am delighted to hear, is playing little Lord Fauntleroy, and others in the cast are Miss Prudence Vanbrugh, Miss Elsie French, and Mr. Arthur Chesney.

At the end of Madame Rambert's season of ballet, with Karsavina and Leon Woizikowksi, which is being presented at the Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith, for three weeks only, Sir Nigel Playfair will produce a new light opera written by Mr. A. P. Herbert and composed by Mr. Thomas F. Dunhill, entitled "Tantivy Towers." It is hoped that this will be the first of a series of operas by English composers and English authors. The first night will be on Friday, January 16; the orchestra will be much enlarged and the best possible artists are promised.

D. P.

FASHIONS OF THE PAST

IN THE MAGAZINES.

By A CORRESPONDENT.

The sales are almost upon us; and every typist begins to turn over her winter wardrobe. It is amusing to think that young women have been doing much the same thing for decades; that every winter they have been scanning the new styles with a fearful joy, wondering if velvet would be worn, asking themselves whether another inch off the skirt would be *chic* or *outré*. And though we seem to have travelled a long way from the extravagantly baroque dress of the mid-nineteenth century, a glance at the fashion magazines of the time proves that we are not really so far away from those exquisite ladies of the plates who exchange confidences in the boudoir or lean pensively on a sundial with a parokeet perched on a gloved hand.

Let us turn for a moment to the autumn of 1855. The Queen is at Balmoral, a retreat "embosomed," as a woman's magazine put it, "among the primeval pine forests of the valley of the Dee, where the wild deer bound over lichen-clad granite rocks, interspersed with spaces covered by mosses rich to the eye and soft to the tread"; and in London fashionable women learn that "for the present autumn and ensuing winter seasons black velvet will be as much, or even more, employed as a trimming for dresses and bonnets than it was last year." Without the bonnets might not that be an announcement for 1931? A year later there is breathless news. *Pelisses* of *moire antique* trimmed with velvet are very *distinguée*; the *Paletot Eugenie* is to be fashionable in Paris, and will be "made in velvet trimmed with fur, cloth trimmed with plush and *Vicuna*, edged with galloon."

THE STATESMEN INTERFERE.

By 1857 bonnets are losing favour a little and hats are gaining ground; the flat *mousquetaire* hat with sweeping feathers is the height of elegance; and, as if to keep pace with the movement of the mode, the new Balmoral has been furnished in a style "remarkable for simplicity of character and purity of taste."

In 1859 there is a certain asperity in the tone of the "World of Fashion": "It is a pity that our statesmen cannot agree to quarrel and turn one another out of office in the winter, before the season of balls and other festivities begins; for in that case fashion would have its full enjoyment, and political parties lose nothing." Perhaps it was in protest that an attempt was made to popularise the tight sleeve. But the autumn of 1860 gives us the gem among "fashionable intelligence": "The *Zouave* jacket and the *Veste Spahis*, or Turkish vest, will be extremely fashionable as *Coins du Feu* during the ensuing season." What dressmaker could beat that to-day?

THEATRES.

Continued from page 8.

PRINCE OF WALES. Evenings only at 8.30.
RIS HOEY in
THE QUEEN BEE.
BALIOL HOLLOWAY as Long John Silver in
TREASURE ISLAND.
DAILY at 2.15 (MATINEES ONLY).

QUEEN'S THEATRE. (Ger. 9437.)
EVENINGS, 8.15; MATS. WED. and SAT., 2.30.
THE BARRETTS OF WIMPOLE STREET.
By RUDOLF BESIER.
Gwen Ffrangcon-Davies.
Marjorie Mars, Scott Sunderland, Joan Barry, Cedric Hardwicke.

ROYALTY. Nightly, 8.30. Thurs., Sat., 2.30.
LEON M. LION in the Joyous Melodrama,
"NUMBER SEVENTEEN."
By J. Jefferson Farjeon.
FRANK ROYDE. RONALD SIMPSON.
FABIA DRAKE.
MARCUS BARRON. ANTHONY IRELAND.

RUDOLF STEINER. Paddington 8219.
JEAN STERLING MACKINLAY.
Matinées, Daily, at 2.30.
NEW CHILDREN'S PROGRAMME.
Harcourt Williams.

ST. JAMES'S. Gerrard 3903.
Evenings, 8.30. Mats., Wed. and Sat., at 2.30.
A MURDER HAS BEEN ARRANGED.
A Ghost Story, in Three Acts, by Emlyn Williams.
Henry Kendall, Margaretta Scott, J. H. Roberts.
"THE BEST THRILLER FOR YEARS."—Eve. News.

ST. MARTIN'S. Sole Lessee, B. A. Meyer.
Evgs., 8.30. Mats., Tues., Fri. 2.30.
PETTICOAT INFLUENCE.
Nigel Playfair, Diana Wynyard.

SAVOY. Evgs. only, 8.15. All seats bkble. Smkg.
Propr., Savoy Theatre, Ld. Lessors, Ex. of H. B. Irving.
Lessees: Charles Egerton Killick & Victor Payne Jennings.
Dorothy Dickson and Carl Brisson in
Andre Charlot's WONDER BAR.
Elsie Randolph, Joseph Greenwald, Gwen Farrar.

SAVOY. DAILY at 2.30. MATINEES Only.
HUGH MARLEY'S
ALICE IN WONDERLAND.
Phyllis Bedells and the Wonder-Child Joy Blackwood.
"FASCINATED CHILDREN."—Daily Mail.
"THREE HOURS OF VARIED ENTERTAINMENT."—D. Express.

SCALA. Near Goodge Street Station.
Museum 6010. Tottenham Court Road.
MATINEES DAILY at 2.30.
10th YEAR. Bert Coote's Original London Production
THE WINDMILL MAN.
A Children's Musical Fairy Play by Frederick Bowyer.
BERT COOTE as "THE MAD GARDENER."

SHAFTESBURY. Prop., J. Benson. Smoking.
Evenings, 8.30. Mats., Thurs., Sat., 2.30.
BASIL FOSTER and TOM MILLER present
LEAVE IT TO SMITH.
A Comedy by
IAN HAY and P. G. WODEHOUSE.
EXTRA CHRISTMAS MATS., Mon., Tues., Wed. next, and Tues., Jan. 6; Wed., Jan. 7; Tues., Jan. 13. Thurs. and Sat. Mats. as usual.

STRAND. Tem. Bar 2660. Proprietor, Kyrle Bellew.
8.30. Thurs., Sat., 2.30. Extra Mat. To-morrow, 2.30.
"IT'S A BOY."
A New Farce.
LESLIE HENSON,
Connie Ediss, Austin Melford,
SYDNEY HOWARD.

VAUDEVILLE. At 8.45. Mats., Mon., Sat., 2.45.
THE BREADWINNER.
By W. SOMERSET MAUGHAM.
RONALD SQUIRE. MARIE LOHR.

VICTORIA PALACE. (Vic. 5282.) Evgs., 8.15.
Mats. Weds and Sats., at 2.30.
R. H. Gillespie presents Archibald de Bear's
"CHELSEA FOLLIES."
A New and Original Revue, with NERVO & KNOX, LILLEBIL IBSEN, HAL SWAIN'S BAND.

WHITEHALL THEATRE, Whitehall, S.W.1. Reg. 3148.
Evenings, 8.30. Mats., Mon. and Thurs., 2.30.
THE WAY TO TREAT A WOMAN.
By Walter Hackett.
MARION LORNE.
BERTRAM WALLIS. CATHLEEN NESBITT.
ALL SEATS BOOKABLE, 3s. 6d. to 12s. Smoking.

WIMBLEDON. (5151.) Daily, at 2 and 7.30. Pantomime.
ALADDIN.
Prices, 6d. to 5s. 9d. Reduced prices for children.

WINTER GARDEN. Holborn 8881.
Evgs., 8.15; Mats., Wed. and Sat., at 2.30.
JACK HULBERT and PAUL MURRAY present
FOLLOW A STAR.
MAISIE GAY.
A. W. BASKCOMB. ALFRED DRAYTON.
JACK HULBERT.
Box-office Now Open. 10-10. Smoking and Garage.

WYNDHAM'S. Lessee: Leon M. Lion.
(Tem. Bar 3028.) EVENINGS at 8.30.
MRS. EDGAR WALLACE presents
SMOKY CELL.
By EDGAR WALLACE.
BERNARD NEDELL. HAROLD HUTH.
Ben Welden. Percy Parsons.
MATS., TO-MORROW and WED., SAT., 2.30.

ARTS THEATRE CLUB, W.C.2. (Tem. Bar 7544.)
Associate membership 10s., per annum. Entrance fee, 10s. TO-NIGHT, at 8.30, and Twice Daily, 2.45 and 8.30, to Sat., Jan. 10th.
THE ITALIAN MARIONETTE PLAYERS.

PICTURE THEATRES.

ALHAMBRA. Leic. Sq. TO-NIGHT, at 6.0 and 8.30. "JUST IMAGINE." The World in 1980, with EL BRENDEL and MAUREEN O'SULLIVAN. Also "Strange As It Seems," etc.

ASTORIA. Gerr. 5528. Con., 6-11. EDDIE CANTOR in "WHOOPEE"; 5.45 and 8.15. Also "Believe it or Not." Gaumont Sound News, Comedy Feature, etc.

CAPITOL. Reg. 4455. Con., 6-11. Jeanette MacDonald and Reginald Denny in "OH, FOR A MAN"; 6.55 and 9.30. Also Gaumont Sound News, Comedy Feature, etc.

CARLTON, Haymarket. Gigantic Holiday Laugh Show! "ANIMAL CRACKERS" with 4 MARX BROS. "Funniest Thing since Chaplin."—D. Mail. The Pantomime of the Screen! All Tkg.! To-night, 6.0, 8.45. A. Crackers starts 5.40, 9.35. Week-days 3 Times Dly. Prices from 2s. 4d. Reg. 2211.

EMPIRE, Leic. Sq. To-night, 6-11. Week-days, 12-12. Grand Outdoor Adventure Story, "BILLY THE KID," with WALLACE BEERY, JOHN MACK BROWN, KAY JOHNSON, KARL DANE.

KENSINGTON. To-night. Talk. "STRICTLY MODERN" (D. Macknill). "DANCE HALL" (Olive Borden). Next MONDAY, Musical Comedy. "HIT THE DECK" (Jack Oakie).

LEICESTER SQUARE. To-night, 6 to 11. The Greatest Love Story ever told, in Music, Pictures, and Colour, VIENNESE NIGHTS. Hammerstein's Masterpiece. Symphony Orchestra.

LONDON PAVILION. To-night, 6, 8.30. Week-days 2.30, 6.30. Howard Hughes' Thrilling Air Spectacle. "HELL'S ANGELS."
All seats bookable from 2s. 4d. 'Phone, Ger. 0704.

MARBLE ARCH PAV. Mayfair 5112. Con., 6-11. TOM WALLS, Yvonne Arnaud in "CANARIES SOMETIMES SING". 7.2 and 9.32. Also "Si Si Senor." Gaumont Sound News, etc.

NEW GALLERY. Gerr. 9805. Con., 6-11. John Wayne and Marguerite Churchill in "THE BIG TRAIL"; 5.25 and 9. Also British Movietone News, Comedy Feature, etc.

NEW VICTORIA. (Vic. 2544.) Con., 6-11. (Doors 5 p.m.) Tom Walls, Yvonne Arnaud in "CANARIES SOMETIMES SING"; 6.50 and 9.35. Stage: Band of H.M. Welsh Guards.

PLAZA. Supreme Holiday Programme! Claudette Colbert, Fredric March in "MANSLAUGHTER." 1930's Gigantic Dramatic Climax! All Tkg.! Lupino Lane in Laugh Riot, Latest Mickey Mouse and Musical Novelties. To-night, 6.0, 8.30. Open 5.30. Reg. 7201.

POLYTECHNIC THEATRE, Regent St. Lang. 1744. Cherry Kearton presents with Sound and Dialogue, "DASSAN."
Daily at 2.30, 5.30, 8.30. Not Sundays.

REGAL, MARBLE ARCH.—To-night, 6-11. British & International Pictures present Owen Nares, Dodo Watts, and Jacqueline Logan in "THE MIDDLE WATCH." Padd. 9911.

STOLL, Kingsway. To-night (Sun.), from 6 p.m. JANET GAYNOR and CHARLES FARRELL in "SUNNY SIDE UP." and Laurel and Hardy. To-mor. and Entire Wk., JOHN McCORMACK in "Song o' My Heart," etc.

THE WORLD'S NEWS THEATRE (Avenue Pavilion, Shaftesbury Avenue). "Round the World in 50 Minutes." See and hear the Latest News of 20 Countries. Continuous. 6-11. Prices, 6d. and 1s.

TIVOLI. Temple Bar 5825. Con., 6-11. EVELYN LAYE and John Boles in "ONE HEAVENLY NIGHT"; 8.55, 9.30. Also British Movietone News, Comedy Feature, etc.

CIRCUSES.

AGAIN AT OLYMPIA (Grand Hall). BERTRAM MILLS' CIRCUS (11th Season). Daily, 2.30 and 7.30. Res.: 10s. 6d., 7s. 6d., 5s. 9d., 3s. 6d.; Unres.: 2s. 4d. Box-office, Olympia. RIV. 2727. Fun Fair only, 1s. 2d.

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NATIONAL SUNDAY LEAGUE.
PALLADIUM. NEXT SUNDAY, at 3.15.
ANNUAL DOMVILLE LECTURE.
SIR JOHN FOSTER FRASER, F.R.G.S.,
will deliver a Lecture entitled
"SOME TALES OF A WORLD WANDERER."
Reserved seats, 1s. 3d., 2s., 3s. Bookable in advance at Palladium and at N.S.L. offices, 34, Red Lion Square, High Holborn, W.C.1 (admission free).

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ROYAL ALBERT HALL.
Patron: HIS MAJESTY THE KING.
SATURDAY NEXT, JANUARY 3, at 2.30.
MESSIAH. HANDEL.
Miss STILES ALLEN,
Miss GLADYS RIPLEY,
Mr. WALTER WIDDOP,
Mr. ROBERT EASTON.
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THE NEW SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA.
Conductor—
DR. MALCOLM SARGENT.
Stalls, 10s. 6d.; Arena, 7s. 6d.; Balc

THE WORLD OF MUSIC.

DU MOULIN'S "COSIMA WAGNER."

By ERNEST NEWMAN.

Graf du Moulin Eckart, the first instalment of whose "Life of Cosima Wagner" we now have in English, ["Cosima Wagner." Translated by Catherine Alison Phillips (Knopf. 2 vols. 42s.], is the son of a former pupil of Hans von Bülow. He became attached to the Wagner circle, and, as is the way with members of that circle, is inclined to see everything from the Wahnfried point of view; some years ago he published a "Life of Bülow" that brought him some rather rough treatment from the pianist's widow, Marie von Bülow. He has every desire to be impartial, but his prepossessions are occasionally a little too strong for him. As a writer pure and simple he can be described, summarily but feelingly, as maddening. The German original of the present book, running to a thousand pages, does not even contain a preliminary statement of chapters and pages; Du Moulin just rambles on and on, and it is impossible for the reader, without putting himself to considerable trouble, to find out even which year he is in at any given moment. The English edition is in every way superior to the German, for not only has Mrs. Alison Phillips given us an excellent translation but she has added chronological headlines to the pages, and in various ways made it possible for the reader who is not too well versed in the Wagner story to find his way about in a rather diffuse and rambling work.

JUSTICE TO COSIMA.

This is a book, however, the interest and the value of which depend not upon the author but upon the subject. Du Moulin has had access to Cosima's diaries and to various hitherto unpublished letters; and his book fills in a thousand gaps in our previous knowledge of Wagner, Cosima and the lesser personalities who were drawn into their orbit. He is not always ideally frank, but his little reticences, if they occasionally obscure the full truth, at any rate do not pervert it. The great value of the work is that it at last enables the world to do something like justice to one of the most remarkable women of all time, a woman who until now has been sadly misunderstood. My contention that without her we should in all probability never have had the completed "Ring," the "Meistersinger" and "Parsifal" has been called in question by some reviewers, who think that King Ludwig would have been support enough to Wagner for those purposes. No one, however, who has more than a superficial knowledge of Wagner's history and mentality in the years between 1861 and 1868 will doubt the broad truth of my theory. One of his curious characteristics was that he could not compose without, to put it crudely, a woman to be constantly petting him. His adventures, sometimes comic, sometimes pathetic, among women in the years immediately following 1861 were really forced on him by this desire. There was a danger, from more than one quarter, that he would either contract a marriage or enter upon a liaison that in the long run would have failed as lamentably as the Minna affair had done; and a second experience of that kind would probably have broken him. Providence did him the greatest service of his whole life in making Cosima step in and take charge of him.

HER PARENTAGE AND QUALITY.

She had been brought up in a school in which renunciation for an ideal was the first article of faith. A blend of Hungarian, German, French and, presumably, Jewish blood in her gave her the vitality that kept her alive to the age of over 92. She had all her father Liszt's idealism without any of the weaknesses of that strangely mixed character; her mother, the Comtesse d'Agoult, was a remarkable woman to whom justice has not yet been done. The Liszt biographers have depended for their information about her and their opinion of her on Lina Ramann's "Life of Liszt," which, we can now see, is not to be trusted where Marie d'Agoult is concerned. Ramann derived her partial facts and her anything but impartial judgments from Liszt himself, who could never think of the Comtesse without bitterness, and from the Princess von Sayn-Wittgenstein, with whom he was then living—an appalling woman who did more harm with her jealousies and her meanness of spirit than any other member of the Wagner-Liszt circle. One Liszt biographer after another has copied from Ramann without any independent investigation of his own, and with a constant rise of temperature and a further and further embroidery of imagination, until we arrive at a climax in the hectic nonsense talked about the Comtesse d'Agoult in Mr. Frederick Corder's book on Liszt.

All the strength and none of the weaknesses of her parents went to make Cosima what she was. She undertook to marry Bülow, characteristically enough, in a moment of sympathy kindled in her by the depression wrought in him by the temporary failure of his ideals. With all his excellent qualities he must have been a man exceedingly difficult to live with; we have abundant testimony—his own included—to the fact that few women but the self-sacrificing Cosima could have borne the burden of him so long and so patiently as she did.

WHAT SHE DID FOR WAGNER.

There are ugly spots in the story of the Wagner-Cosima-Bülow entanglement, but there cannot be the least question to-day that Cosima's motive for leaving Hans was to go to the rescue of a greater man who needed her more—the greatest man, as she felt, of the century, who was visibly going to physical and mental ruin through lack of the one element in his life that she alone could supply. The Munich struggles and disillusionments that followed immediately upon his patronage by King Ludwig had brought him, with health already beginning to fail, to the very limit of his spiritual capacity to endure. In Cosima he found, as his own moving words testify again and again, all that he needed. Spiritual recuperation was now possible for him only in solitude.

For Wagner, however, a solitude had to be a solitude à deux; and with no one but Cosima could he have spent those six Triebschen years in virtual isolation from the outer world. She attracted him as a lover; she was intelligent enough to take part in every detail of his intellectual and musical life; she organised his daily life for him, and made it possible for him to feel the joy of creation again; used as she had been to the highest European society since her childhood, she was capable of representing him, as the subtlest and most tactful of ambassadors, in the new milieu into which his growing fame and the patronage of King Ludwig had thrown him; and, as her diary shows, she was prepared to suffer almost incredible wounds from his ill-temper and his bad breeding without ever, for a single moment, losing her faith in him or relaxing her devotion to him. There was not an element in his strangely compounded nature of which she was not aware, sometimes painfully so; yet she could look through and beyond all these to the great man he was at the core, and sweep them all out of the range of her vision to concentrate on the one object of preserving him and his still unfinished work for the world. She, in turn, was the only woman in all his wide experience of women whom he could both feel a passion for and look up to.

COSIMA AND BAYREUTH.

For the full story of all that Cosima did for Wagner during the most difficult years the reader must turn to Du Moulin's crowded pages. The second part of the work, dealing with her Bayreuth activities after his death, will be eagerly awaited. I fancy it will be found that she has been, in the main, as unjustly aspersed in the later years as she was in the earlier. Mistakes she certainly made; no one human being charged with the colossal task of setting Bayreuth on its feet without the living presence of its great founder could have failed to make mistakes. But the fact remains that if Cosima had not been the woman she was, a singular and rare blend of the ideal and the practical, Bayreuth would have collapsed after Wagner's death. She showed, in those later difficult years, some regrettable prejudices; but on the whole one suspects that most of the animus against her came from people who had tried their strength against hers and been worsted.

A TYPICAL STORY.

A story of her that, of course, is not to be found in the present volume, may be taken as typical of what went on at Bayreuth after Wagner's death. A young singer, at rehearsal, used to enter the Hall of Song as Elisabeths too often do, with arms wide outstretched in a too literal interpretation of her "greeting" to that sanctified place. Cosima insisted on a more moderate and less theatrical gesture. On the other side of the singer was her teacher, an old artist who had herself been accustomed to play Elisabeth in the conventional manner, and who could conceive no other way of making an "effective" entry in the second act. Between Cosima and her tigress of a teacher, poor Elisabeth was brought to the verge of distraction.

At last the teacher told her to pacify Cosima by pretending to give in to her, but at the actual performance to enter the Hall of Song as she had told her to do—adding that if she disobeyed her on "the night" she would wring her neck when she came off. At the performance the gestures were on Cosima's scale, not the teacher's; and the trembling girl gave the infuriated old woman the explanation of her disobedience. The resolute and unbeatable Cosima, who had foreseen everything, had had Elisabeth's sleeves sewn to the body of her gown, so that it was a physical impossibility for the singer to raise her arms beyond a certain point. We have only to multiply this kind of episode by the thousand to understand why Cosima was not regarded affectionately by alleged artists who thought they knew more about Wagner's intentions than she did.

As I was reading the proofs of this article, the second volume of Du Moulin's biography—"Die Herrin von Bayreuth"—reached me from the publishers, the Drei Masken Verlag. It is a book of about 900 pages, carrying the record down to Cosima's death in the spring of this year. I hope to review it shortly.

THE WEEK'S MUSIC.

B.B.C. String Orchestra.

In a week when all London's concert-halls are closed, the B.B.C. has twice come to the rescue of those who cannot exist without music. On Christmas Eve, John Barbirolli conducted the strings of the B.B.C. Orchestra. It was a happy thought to give the concerto for Christmas Day by Corelli, and to handle it so tenderly (a very different thing from tentatively). The tone and *legato* phrasing of the central slow movement showed the players at their best. And how listeners who were hearing it for the first time must have been startled by the similarity of the last movement to the Pastoral Symphony in Handel's "Messiah"!

In the Andante from Mozart's Cassation a very refined *régime* was imposed on workmanship of the best. But in the Air and Dance of Delius some excess of fervour was inimical to the airy, seemingly unconscious, freedom which is one of this composer's greatest charms. The Tchaikovsky Serenade was positively unctuous, and, worse still, had obviously been insufficiently rehearsed. A certain stringiness in the upper registers betrayed the fact that the violins were not sure of themselves—as in the Valse. Altogether, it was not so tidy a performance that one could easily realise all the points of a work that is particularly interesting as affording glimpses of the future. It might, particularly as regards its third movement, be a sketch for the Pathétique Symphony.

I am sure Miss Joan Coxon, who was in delightfully fresh voice, must have earned the gratitude of the older listeners by reviving two of Scott-Gatty's charming children's songs among her contributions to the programme; Mr Lush, who was accompanying, did not at first understand the joyousness of "Christmas Voices"—but he soon did.

Light Symphony Concert.

On Boxing Night conditions of reception were equally as favourable as two nights before. The light "symphony" concert (in which, by the way, Tchaikovsky's "Casse Noisette" Suite was the only complete work) came through with perfect clarity on the National wave-length; and with very little interference from the Brookman's Park transmitter. The ever-fascinating dainty music showed what a delicate touch the B.B.C. Orchestra is rapidly developing. It was all the more appreciable because Percy Pitt, who was in command, with the wisdom of an old campaigner, held the reins just tight enough but forebore to touch the whip. Similar felicity had marked the two Songs Without Words by Mendelssohn, which were made to counterfeit the lightness, almost, of a piano. And the Overture to "Tannhäuser" had been perfectly sound and rich in colour.

Arthur Fear, the soloist, always had a fine voice, but to-day he is practising the long views, the long phrasing that make for the deepest interest in listening to such a scene as "Wotan's Farewell" ("Die Walküre"). This was full of the right weighty characterisation; and the orchestra played the fire-music superbly. He also scored in two excerpts from Mozart's "Don Giovanni"—a very different vein. H. F.

SUBSIDISING OPERA.

From COLONEL BLOIS.

To the Editor of the SUNDAY TIMES.

Sir,—When I read Mr. Newman's article, headed "Subsidising Opera," in the SUNDAY TIMES of December 7, I was under the impression that it was intended to be a serious contribution to the discussion which has been aroused by this topic, and it was in this belief that I wrote the letter printed by you on December 14.

On reading, however, in your issue of December 21 his "scena," entitled "A Socratic-Operatic Conversation," I perceive that I have mistaken the character of the discussion. It would serve no useful purpose to refer to the many personal allusions and quips which Mr. Newman has permitted himself; these things are questions of taste—they seem to me impertinences, and in any event have no relation to the matter under discussion.

As it must be obvious that anyone can win any argument if he is allowed to compose not only his own utterances but also his opponents' answers—especially if he is willing to make those opponents out to be imbecile—I propose to withdraw from this discussion, unless, sir, you think your readers would be interested to hear the *real* replies that would have been given if the conversation imagined by Mr. Newman had in fact taken place. In that case I should be pleased to meet Mr. Newman at your office, or anywhere else you think fit to appoint, and answer for myself, and for Professor Walter, who is abroad. EUSTACE BLOIS.

Royal Opera, Covent Garden.

PLEA FOR BRITISH ARTISTS.

Sir,—One of the most important questions as regards the opera subsidy is how many British pounds will go out of the country? Knowing the extreme partiality of both the Covent Garden Syndicate and the B.B.C. to foreigners of any nationality, especially German, it is a matter of considerable anxiety

Continued on next column.

THE GALLERIES

HOMAGE TO BYZANTIUM.

BEFORE THE ITALIAN PRIMITIVES.

By FRANK RUTTER.

One of the happiest results of the Italian Exhibition in London was that it set all thoughtful visitors enquiring into origins. What preceded the primitive paintings of Siena and Florence? Inevitably our minds turned eastwards and we were compelled to recognise the immense debt which Christian painting and European civilisation owe to Byzantium. It has become obvious that the history of Christian art in Europe began not in Tuscany but in Constantinople; but with our almost complete Western ignorance of Byzantine painting, it has hitherto been impossible for all save a travelled few to follow the true course of its development and evolution.

Now for the first time in our own language a gallant endeavour has been made to trace, to explain, to expound, and adequately to illustrate the sequence of Byzantine painting from its beginnings in the fourth century to its culmination in the work of Domenicos Theotocopoulos (El Greco). "The Birth of Western Painting" (Routledge, 42s.), written by Mr. Robert Byron, and illustrated with photographs of paintings in the monasteries of Mount Athos and Mistra, specially taken by Mr. David T. Rice, is the most valuable contribution yet made in English to our understanding of a deeply important but exceedingly difficult art period. To summarise the exposition, closely reasoned through 219 pages, is best accomplished, perhaps, by quoting the passage with which the author concludes his work:—

> In the eighth and ninth centuries, the Byzantines discovered a new purpose in art. In the tenth and eleventh, they perfected a corresponding technique. In the eleventh and twelfth, their rulers, scholars, preachers, monks and common folk coalesced in a common impulse towards humanisation. In the thirteenth and fourteenth, they communicated the purpose, in the guise of a humanised style of painting, to Italy. The Italians then revived the classical technique of reproduction, which so overwhelmed them that, in the sixteenth, they lost the purpose. But in the sixteenth came the last Byzantine, who borrowed of the new freedom, only to further the original aim. Then he died without succession, and not until three centuries later was the aim rediscovered. This is the history of interpretational painting in Europe.

THE NEW MYSTICISM.

If I have followed Mr. Byron's reasoning aright, the aim was a "will to philosophic expression"; the purpose, "a superb emotional compromise between material representation and the intangible magnitude of the Deity." Following the iconoclast movement, this aim at first found expression in the austere, formal, mystical art of the Byzantine Christ Pantocrator. The humanisation in the eleventh and twelfth centuries was due not, as has been stated, to "a reversion to Hellenic naturalism," but to an indigenous impulse towards a gentler depiction of celestial types formulated by Cappadocian monkish illustrators of humble origin and responding to the desire of the people for something less remote and terrible.

> These motives spread, not only throughout the Greek lands, but to Italy, carried thither by the Byzantine artists of Sicily and Calabria, by the traffic in Byzantine icons, and by the returning pilgrims from the Holy Land. In keeping with the double trend of emphasis in the dignity of human experience, generated alike in the capital and the provinces, there arose in the twelfth century a new and gentler mysticism, bound up with the divinity of human suffering, which permeated all classes of society and gave the Byzantine state the peculiar theocratic aspect of its latter years. The new spirit, like the new iconography was communicated to Italy. And thence came St. Francis, and after him, Dante. Thus it is, that artists such as Giotto and the masters of Mistra, who could have had no sort of connection with one another's work, and who were wholly divorced from a common cultural centre, achieved paintings not even contemporary in date, whose identity, both in iconography and spirit, must astound the most casual observer.

COOL COLOUR SCHEMES.

Special pleading as this may appear to students who are familiar only with Italian painting, the reasonableness of the argument will be patent to all who have climbed the hill at Mistra, or have seen the unique collection of paintings of the Cretan School in the private museum of M. Loverdo at Athens. Though the inclusion of some of these panel paintings among the illustrations would have been very welcome, the author's arguments are abundantly enforced by Mr. Rice's admirable photographs of the most important mural paintings at Mistra and Mount Athos. His work with the camera has made these treasures of Byzantine painting for the first time accessible and intelligible to the book-student, and the educational value of these excellent reproductions—especially those of details—can hardly be over-estimated. The confrontation on the same page of Byzantine reproductions with Italian primitives conclusively proves the justice of Mr. Byron's argument.

To follow the development of the two great schools of Macedonia and Crete is beyond the scope of a brief review, but since cool colour schemes are so essential a characteristic of both Byzantine Schools and also of the paintings of El Greco, it may be permitted to echo Mr. Byron's inquiry, "Whence came the actual tints of the colours used, the claret reds, silvery greens, and honey yellows"—and to repeat with him, "perhaps the landscape of the Greek lands makes reply." Certainly the blonde colouring of the Greek landscape has impressed every artist who has visited the country—even Lord Leighton recognised and was influenced by this characteristic—and it was doubtless the close connection between Venice and the Near East which made Cima, Veronese and Bassano tentative pioneers in that silver tonality which El Greco perfected and Velazquez popularised.

THE LAST BYZANTINE.

For it would be superfluous to point out that Mr. Byron's "last Byzantine" is El Greco, whose art was the logical outcome of his Cretan ancestry and orthodox faith.

> In an age when it seemed that all hope for his people was extinguished, he was faithful alike to the past and to the future. If he could paint better than anyone else on earth it was because he was a Greek. He preserved always the signature of his school and tradition, whose style, attached to other names, may still be seen on icons in the Greek churches of Egypt. All the pride of centuries, and all the glories that had become no more than a memory, seem to have revived for one last triumph in the words:
>
> "Δομήνικος Θεοτοκόπουλος κρὴς ἐποίη—
>
> —Domenicos Theotocopoulos, Cretan, did it."

Continued from preceding column.

to those who would feign see good days resulting from the Government's step.

What guarantee will be given that our own musicians reap the benefit from the subsidy to their national opera to the extent that have the many foreigners with whom we have been favoured in the past years? If it is to be a national opera in the true sense of the word, will our composers receive the advantages that they naturally expect? If matters be left entirely in the hands of Colonel Blois and the B.B.C., one trembles to think how many pounds will be changed into marks and lira.

I do not wish to be accused of an insular nationalism, but I would suggest to the powers that be that we have been host long enough, and that it is our turn to be the guest. Let them wait till some of our leading singers, composers, and conductors receive invitations from abroad ere they engage a single foreigner in any capacity whatsoever. If we are not good enough for the foreigner, then our national opera, supported by our own money, is too good for them. NORMAN DEMUTH.

Authors' Club, S.W.

THE WORLD OF BOOKS.

POET OF CHILDHOOD.

"Hans Andersen." Forty Stories, translated from the Danish by M. R. James. (Faber and Faber. 15s.)

By DESMOND MacCARTHY.

Hans Andersen was born in 1805 at Odense, in the Danish island of Funen. His father was a poor shoemaker who loved reading, and it made him discontented with his occupation. His mother, as the mothers of men of genius often are, was a remarkable character. Hans was an odd, gawky boy, whose great pleasure was playing with a toy-theatre made by himself. Inspired by his favourite pastime, he went up to Copenhagen when he was 14 years old, in the hope of becoming an actor and a singer; but his gestures were very awkward, and he had no voice at all. Still, there must have been "a something" about him, for he interested several distinguished men, who looked after his education, sending him first to a Latin school and then to a college in charge of a famous scholar who tried to laugh him out of his oddities. Finally he was introduced to the University, and a year after he had been there he published his first book. This described a journey on foot through his own country. Travelling and roaming were a passion with him, and he travelled as much as he could. He visited Rome and Paris and other places, writing now poems, now about other poets, now descriptions of what he had noticed.

These were his wander-years, when he was going about in search of his own genius as much as of fame and fresh sights. He knocked during those years at many doors in the House of Letters, but it was not until he happened to push open the little mysterious door which led straight into his own childlike nature that he found it. The door yielded at once to his hand, and there within he saw glimmering the little "tinder box." It was to prove a real Aladdin's lamp for him, bringing fame, money, all he wanted. His first volume of fairy stories was published in 1835, and "The Tinder Box" was the first of those stories.

What He Was Like.

Sir Edmund Gosse has described him in later life. "I was almost painfully struck," he wrote, "at the first moment by the grotesque ugliness of his face and hands and by his enormously long and swinging arms, but this impression passed away as soon as he began to speak. His eyes, though small, had great sweetness and vivacity of expression, while gentleness and ingenuousness breathed from everything he said." It was clear from his movements and aspect that he was of peasant stock. Everybody also noticed that in his company they ceased to be shy or on their guard; everybody noticed, too, that he talked, as most of us would if we were natural, a great deal about himself. He would constantly say such things as, "It is true that I am the greatest man of letters now living, yet the praise should not be given to me but to God, who has made me so." And there is a story (it illustrates his disarming naivety) of his pointing to some derogatory paragraph in a local paper, and when his companion asked, "Surely with your world-wide fame you don't mind *that*?" of his replying with tears in his eyes, "I do—a little." He enjoyed so excitedly the national holiday and festivities held in honour of his 70th birthday that they hastened his end. He died in August, 1875. He had seen his own statue unveiled.

Comparison with La Fontaine.

There are points in his character and talent which remind us of La Fontaine, but to the critic the difference between them is more interesting. Both took for granted with an endearing casual humility that everybody would be delighted to help them; both were grateful, but they were not more thankful to their friends than they were to the fire for chattering and flickering on the hearth, or to animals and insects for merely existing; both were content with themselves, and exceedingly pleased with their own talents; both were subtle simpletons. And here resemblance ends. La Fontaine was a far more exact and perfect craftsman. He wrote for the sophisticated and delighted them by his finished simplicity; Hans Andersen wrote for the simple, but also pleased by his shrewdness. Their works might have been nearer in spirit, though they did thus start from opposite poles, if the times and the world in which each lived had not been so different.

Andersen and His Translators.

Dr. James in his preface to these translations from Hans Andersen—there are forty stories in this volume—says that at this time of day it is not necessary to praise him. I am not quite sure that it is unnecessary, because people are so ridiculously terrified of sentiment, and I am sorry that Dr. James thought so because he would have praised him so judiciously and well. His translations are proofs of that. They are much lighter, drier, and firmer than any previous ones, and there have been many. Andersen's humour is transmitted in them without any of the archness which has disfigured the work of other translators. Most current English translations of Hans Andersen are from the German and not from the Danish, and in translation at a double remove, though the sense may survive, the volatile elements of style are sure to evaporate. Hans Andersen, being an old-fashioned poet, was never afraid of emotion, and, like all born to tell stories to children, he was simple-minded and sentimental.

Sentiment being the most difficult quality of all to convey out of one language to another, he must be translated by someone who knows the importance of using a word which is even only by a little the best word, and is aware that the loquitive style of the original must never degenerate into the gushing candour of a woman talking to a child with an eye to fascinating an admiring adult also present. In Dr. James's hands Andersen is quite safe. Miss Christine Jackson's illustrations, too, are appropriate, for they are pretty and matter-of-fact—but they are badly placed on the page. Most of the stories Dr. James has chosen are early ones. Andersen, as he increased in self-confidence and fame, travelled further and further away from the folk story and the fairy story proper, writing instead sketches from life in which the supernatural played little or no part. He seems to have invented few mythical figures himself, except the Snow Queen, the Marsh King, and perhaps the Ice Maiden. To show his way of handling an old story, let us see what he did in the case of a famous one, "The Emperor's New Clothes."

A Dangerous Secret.

"The Emperor's New Clothes" is an old Spanish story which has a flavour of the humour of the Middle Ages. He found it in chapter vii. of Don Manuel's "Count Lucanor," which describes how a king was swindled by three rogues. It is told to the count by his counsellor as a warning against keeping a secret from a friend. Three rogues once came to a king professing to be master-weavers who could make a cloth invisible to anyone who was not really the son of his supposed father. They would make this cloth only it must be kept a profound secret. Now, the Moors were not allowed to inherit any property if they were illegitimate, and the King thought such a test would enable him to escheat a great deal of the wealth of his richest subjects. He therefore kept his own counsel and shut the three rogues in a room in his palace, giving them all the silver and gold and silk and lace they said they required.

But when they announced that the garment was ready, the King, to his dismay, discovered that he could not see it himself. He, too, then, was not the son of the King he believed to be his father! To conceal this terrible truth which would rob him of his throne, he pretended to admire the cloth excessively, and all his court followed suit. On a day of ceremonial public procession—"and," says the book, "it was well for him that it was summer"—he pretended to ride down the street in his new clothes. Not one of the spectators dared, for fear of losing his property, to admit that the King had nothing on, until a negro groom blurted out the truth. The moral drawn was that if the great keep secrets from their faithful counsellors, they will fall a prey to rogues.

Andersen's Version.

Hans Andersen's version is so familiar that it is not necessary to remind you that the moral he draws is different. The cause of the conspiracy of silence was, of course, utterly unsuited to his audience. Notice the delightful twist that he gave the story.

> "But he hasn't got anything on!" said a little child. "Lor! just hark at the innocent," said its father. And one whispered to the other what the child had said: "That little child there says he hasn't got anything on."
>
> "Why, he hasn't got anything on!" the whole crowd was shouting at last; and the Emperor's flesh crept, for it seemed to him that they were right. "But, all the same," he thought to himself, "I must go through with the procession." So he held himself more proudly than before, and the lords-in-waiting walked on, bearing the train—the train that wasn't there at all.

The mediæval humour, the joke about the uncertainty of paternity, has vanished, and in its place creeps in a modern subtle touch about the King, "So he held himself more proudly than before." It was entirely sympathetic to the spirit of the age that Andersen should have thus made a child proclaim the truth. The nineteenth century was eager to regard the child as "an eye among the blind." Subsequently people really went too far in child-worship. It often takes clever nonsense to knock out sentimental nonsense, and that is perhaps the best that can be said for much modern psychology concerned with childhood.

A HISTORY OF RITUAL.

"Notes on the Catholic Liturgies." By Archdale A. King. (Longmans, Green. 21s.)

Dr. Johnson in his journey to the Western Highlands discovered several things that strengthened his sympathy with the "old religion." "Through the new islands which we visited we neither saw nor heard of any house of prayer, except in Skye, that was not in ruins." Ceremony and decency, he affirmed, had been blasted together; and he added this pregnant remark for the consideration of those who think that a beautiful and profound liturgy is necessarily associated with lazy and mechanical devotions:—

> Over the sleepy laziness of our last erected churches, we may indulge our superiority with a triumph, by comparing it with the fervid activity of those who suffer them to fall.

Mr. Archdale King's book on the Catholic Liturgies is of immense value to the student of those ceremonial structures which, in their own field, present an exact analogy to those other elaborate acts of worship fixed in stone—the great cathedrals. It gives a very full account of the history and contents of the various liturgies still in use in Catholic Christendom. It is for the student, rather than the expert, and its title, "Notes on the Catholic Liturgy," anticipates the only criticism that we have to make on its limitations. It gives indications, throughout, of the rich intellectual content of those great forms of worship, but only indications; very much as, in the service of Low Mass, conducted for the most part in silence, indications are given of the riches that are only expressly poured out in the choral harmonies of High Mass.

"Anatomy" of the Subject.

There is room for a book which should bring out the drama, the colour and harmony, outer and inner, of the liturgy, for the imagination and intellect of the general reader. As an encyclopædic essay this work is admirable; but it has little of the glow that suffuses a certain chapter (the twenty-second of "Marius") in which Walter Pater deals with the ritual of the early Church. He describes its most profoundly beautiful drama, before which in language and intellectual depth, the tragedies of ancient Greece are no more than nursery charades; and he recognises the virtue—so often imputed as a fault—in the method of its development.

Wisdom, he says, in this Catholic liturgy was dealing with the dust of outworn creeds and philosophies, and, like the spirit of life itself, organising soul and body out of the lime and clay of the earth. "She gathers and serviceably adopts one thing here, another there, from various sources—Gnostic, Jewish, Pagan—to adorn and beautify the greatest act of worship the world has seen."

Mr. King's book should be read with Walter Pater's great chapter as a complement, and Goethe's remarks in Part 2, Book 7, of his "Dichtung und Wahreit," on sacramental religion, as a harmonising influence, if the "values" of the subject are to be appreciated by the general reader. But within its limits, as an "anatomy" of the subject, Mr. King's book has considerable merits. There are particularly good chapters on the Mozarabic and Byzantine rites.

MORE ABOUT SHAKESPEARE.

"The Approach to Shakespeare." By J. W. Mackail. (Clarendon Press. 6s.)

"Shakespeare: New Views for Old." By Roderick Eagle. (Palmer. 5s.)

The flattering illusion that at this time of day something at once new and true is to be said about Shakespeare, the belief of Browning's "Mr. Gigadibs," that there are yet

> two points in Hamlet's soul
> Unseized on by the Germans,

flourishes in the human breast as perennially as hope itself. It is plainly proclaimed in the sub-title of Mr. Eagle's book. The fact is that Shakespeare's work is so rich and multiform that anybody with the amount of literary culture necessary for the production of a tolerable essay can write more or less readably about him, although to produce a truly original work on such a theme may well be held to transcend the wit of man. Both the books whose titles appear above are well written, both show intelligent appreciation of the work of the great poet, neither contains anything markedly novel.

A FRENCH STATESMAN.

"The Memoirs of Raymond Poincaré." Vol. IV. (1915). Translated and adapted by Sir George Arthur. (Heinemann. 21s.)

Reviewed by SIR JOHN MARRIOTT.

France is prolific in politicians, but, like other contemporary Democracies, is lamentably deficient in statesmanship. Among the few statesmen of the last two decades, M. Poincaré stands out pre-eminent. English readers owe, therefore, a debt to Sir George Arthur not merely for the skill with which he has rendered in English the French original of these "Memoirs," but for the tact displayed in the abridgment of a work too voluminous for foreign consumption. Even as it is, a whole volume is devoted to a single year.

But the year 1915, though devoid of any decisive result on the Western Front, contributed materially to the ultimate victory of the Allies. "We take or lose a few trenches, but all the while death is stalking about." That was naturally the aspect of affairs which most deeply impressed itself on the mind of the French President. Nor is it surprising to read, under date September 25, when the Loos-Champagne offensive was to be launched:—

> I could scarcely sleep, and rose before dawn, tortured by anxiety as to what the fortunes of war would bring forth.

Then, when the first news (delusively optimistic, as we now know) of the engagement was brought to him, we read:—

> I felt myself altogether overcome; I went up to my library and, alone with my wife, I burst into tears. If it is really victory, what joy! But if this evening or to-morrow we are held up by the second lines of defence, or flung back by German counter-attacks, how many dead, how many wounded, what flow of blood for a quite illusory result.

Quite illusory the result, unfortunately, proved to be; but such passages, at least, enable us to realise the strain imposed in these first years of the war upon our French allies, and to extenuate their failure to render us the help we expected in its later stages.

It is not, however, on the Western Front that the main interest of 1915 is concentrated. The year was memorable in the history of the war for three things: The sinking of the Lusitania, which ultimately, though tardily, brought the United States in; the conclusion of the Treaty of London between the three original Allies and Italy—a Treaty on the strength of which Italy came in; and the brilliant but costly failure of the Gallipoli expedition. The sinking of the Lusitania does not figure largely in these "Memoirs," though M. Poincaré recalls the bitter comment of the "Homme Enchaîné" on the American Note and President Wilson, "whose impartiality begins with a personal tribute to the Kaiser."

During the spring of 1915 there are, naturally, frequent references to the impending intervention of Italy. The Grand Duke Nicholas, it seems, was very anxious to be assured that Italy would draw off from the Eastern Front some part of the Austrian forces. But M. Poincaré (nor was he singular in this) makes a wry face over the terms demanded (and ultimately obtained) by Italy as the price of intervention. It is now becoming fashionable in Italy to maintain that Italy came badly out of the war; that her acquisitions were not commensurate with the sacrifices she had made—and so on. But what acquisitions could possibly have "compensated" either England or France for their sacrifices?

An Avalanche of Documents.

It is, of course, quite true that at the Paris Conference Italy was badly treated by President Wilson, whose pedantry resented the "Secret" Treaty of London. But France and England faithfully fulfilled their engagements, and Italy ultimately obtained practically everything for which she had bargained—and without the sacrifice of Constantinople to Russia.

As to Russia's claim to Constantinople, there is, as Sir George Arthur remarks in his modest Foreword, little documentary evidence available. But there is enough in M. Poincaré's Diary to indicate what havoc in the Balkan diplomacy of the Allies was wrought by Russia's very natural insistence that the moment had come for the realisation of her secular ambition.

In this, as in other matters, the avalanche of documents which has descended on publicists since the opening of the archives of the belligerent States has reduced to relative insignificance the memoirs of individual statesmen and soldiers. But the historian in the future will not be able to dispense with either class of historical materials. If the official documents have their value—and it is immeasurable—so also has the day-to-day commentary of the men at the centre of affairs. Among these the "Memoirs" of M. Poincaré will always take an important place. In one respect, indeed, they contrast very favourably with others of their class. M. Poincaré's comments are almost wholly objective; he makes no attempt whatever at self-vindication.

The French Premier's Rôle.

Nor, indeed, is any vindication called for. The position of a French President, as Sir Henry Maine pointed out many years ago, is a peculiar one. An English King, according to the classic aphorism of M. Thiers, reigns but does not govern. An American President governs but does not reign. It is left to a French President neither to govern nor to reign. But not all French Presidents have been in M. Poincaré's position. Before he became President he had ruled France as Prime Minister, and after quitting the Presidential Chair he was to rule France again. It would have been no more than natural if, during the intensely critical years of his Presidency, he had been tempted to snatch at the reins of power. If he ever was so tempted, there is no trace of the temptation in these pages. There is no captious criticism either of soldiers or Ministers. For both he exhibits consistent consideration.

In the main M. Poincaré is very restrained in his references to the allies of France. Nevertheless, the wonder persists, and is not diminished by a perusal of these pages, how any Grand Alliance could escape defeat at the hands of a great military Power with unity of command.

STRESEMANN.

"Essays and Speeches on Various Subjects." By Gustav Stresemann. With Introductory Life by Baron R. von Rheinbaben. Translated by Christopher Turner. (Butterworth. 15s.)

Briefly prefaced by Sir Austen Chamberlain, the contents of this book are an index to the political mind of Gustav Stresemann from 1907 to the close of his life. His later public years, of course, outweighed the earlier ones in importance. "Stresemann's two Ministries," writes his biographer of his terms of office as Chancellor "only lasted twelve weeks in all, but in this short period he succeeded in restoring order in Bavaria and Saxony, in holding the Reich together, and last, but not least, in opening negotiations with France."

It is interesting to find him, in 1910, sighing for an economic agreement with England, but he supported the war, when it came, without any reservation. How difficult it was, while the struggle lasted, to be at once a good German and a candid reasoner may be seen by his remarks on the violation of Belgium's neutrality (p. 100), and on Napoleon; that Emperor is forgiven for compassing Prussia's downfall at Jena because of his undying opposition to England! Again, it may surprise English readers to be informed that Germans have "an ineradicable habit of worshipping foreign countries and seeing their good points while losing sight of their own." But one may ungrudgingly admire the courage and patriotism of the speech delivered at Osnabrück in Germany's darkest hour, when Stresemann exhorted his hearers, with genuine eloquence and sincerity, to preserve their racial consciousness, to work for the future, and to feel and proclaim a belief in the recovery of Germany. He set his fellow-countrymen, in these respects, the finest example; and when the doings of post-war Germans are considered, the name of Stresemann, bound up as it is with the Treaty of Locarno, stands highest.

NEW FICTION.

AN AMERICAN NEGRO.

"Sweet Man." By Gilmore Millen. (Cassell, 7s. 6d.)

"Smart Setback." By Wood Kahler. (Knopf. 7s. 6d.)

"Eva." By Jacques Chardonne. (Gollancz. 6s.)

"The Lady of Ascot." By Edgar Wallace. (Hutchinson. 7s. 6d.)

Reviewed by RALPH STRAUS.

In recent years more than one American novelist has directed his attention to the difficult problems which beset the highly-educated negro to-day. In his "Sweet Man" Mr. Millen dispassionately considers the case of the ordinary coloured workman, and he has certainly written a very remarkable book. It may not be to everybody's taste, there is some very plain speaking in its pages, but it is virile and assured and curiously attractive.

Young John Henry's father was white, but he is brought up with his mother's folk—a handsome youngster with a roving eye. The black ladies, indeed, find him irresistible, a fact which John Henry is at no pains to disregard. When, however, he marries the sensible Ida, it seems likely that he will become a hard-working and successful grower of cotton. Unfortunately, the white people do not treat him well. He leaves his wife and sinks down to the depths, allowing any black woman who likes to keep him. The war fails in any way to regenerate him, and a long term of imprisonment after a drunken brawl, in which he stabs a white man, only strengthens his hatred for his father's people. Finally, as a chauffeur in Hollywood, he becomes his white mistress's lover, only to find that what had once been the summit of his debased ambition brings with it fear and disgust. Pining for the liberty that he seems to have lost, he shoots both the woman and himself.

In less skilful hands this book might have become a very ugly thing. As it is, you accept it for the unbowdlerised truth, and can even sympathise with the chief character. There are some truly dreadful scenes in the book—the burning alive of a wretched negro is about the most terrible thing of the kind that I remember ever to have read—but you are not unduly depressed. Rarely can the veil have been lifted so effectively from this strangely alien world of the black man.

COCKTAILS AD NAUSEAM.

A very different, though hardly more delectable, picture of modern American life is to be found in Mr. Kahler's "Smart Setback." This book has wit of a kind, but it is a little difficult to become more than mildly interested in a set of rich wastrels whose one object in life seems to be the regular assimilation of gin. They drink cocktails all day and all night, and one silly party follows another, and it is a mere wisp of a story that Mr. Kahler has to tell.

His Rylda is one of those rich young women who are apparently too "smart" to do anything but provide the gossip-writers with material for their daily columns. She has a husband whom she despises, and two children whom she rarely sees, and a succession of wearisome and half-hearted lovers. Life to her means nothing at all. Then a portrait-painter (who seems to have no time to paint portraits) comes, as they say, into her life, and jokingly boasts that he will give it "a plot." He becomes her lover for a little while, and suggests becoming her second husband, but he is rather curtly dismissed when she takes to dressmaking. It seems to me that he has had a narrow escape, but I may be wrong. I admit that there are amusing passages in the book, but it does not leave a very pleasant taste in the mouth.

A FINE NOVEL FROM FRANCE.

It is a pleasure to pass on to M. Chardonne's "Eva." Here again the story itself may be slight, but the manner of its telling is exquisite. You are given a series of jottings—there is no other word for them—which at various times in his life a man writes down in his note

IN THE YUKON.

"END OF THE EARTH."

HOME OF THE SOURDOUGH.

By FREDERICK NIVEN.

What do they know of England who only England know? And what do we know of the Empire to-day who are unaware that the most recent inventions and discoveries of our age are taken full advantage of at what is called the end of the earth? I am writing this in Yukon Territory, looking out at the loneliest landscape I have ever known. But behind me, out of a polished box, a voice is announcing something or other—from Chicago, I think; and an aeroplane has just glided away down the sky like a great eagle over the furthest range.

Flying has greatly changed the condition of travel here. Prospectors now, instead of trudging or paddling through the wilderness, frequently go to the hinterlands of this vast domain by 'planes. These are all of the pontoon variety, and so can descend on the many lakes. Six hundred and forty-nine of Yukon's 207,076 square miles are of water. Lakes and twisting rivers are everywhere. A few days ago a pilot set out from here with a prospector for the back of beyond, and did not return on time—did not return after time. So another airman went off to see if all was well. All was not entirely well. Pilot and prospector were safe, but the 'plane had been damaged. The pilot of the second remained to assist repairs, but as these took time the prospector walked out to let the anxious people at their base know that there was nothing to worry about. His walk was one of eighty miles, which he completed in twenty-four hours. He just kept going. That was all, as he explained, there was "to it."

FAR FROM THE MADDING CROWD.

Having grown accustomed to hearing women of sophisticated lands, a few miles from cities, bemoan their distance from shop windows, I foolishly took it upon myself, by way of conversation, to say to one lady I met at a settlement more than 100 miles from a town—and that of but 300 inhabitants—that she must feel it lonely there.

"I love it!" she declared; and she was not protesting too much. She was, I realised, sincere. There was a piano in the place. There was no radio-set, but there was a gramophone. There were books in the shelves.

"Only in winter you feel shut in," I suggested.

"Secluded," she amended. "There is a wonderful sense of seclusion in the winter."

Mr. E. V. Lucas is on holiday, but will resume his weekly articles next Sunday.

A nurse in one of the hospitals told me yesterday of a woman who was brought in last winter by her husband and two weeks later was off again into the wilderness on a dog-sledge with her new baby. On the way back to their lonely log-cabin home they encountered a blizzard which brought them to a halt, and finally, food dwindling, the husband built a shelter for her, which he banked with snow, and "mushed" back for more supplies. She had in her care, as well as the two-weeks young baby, two small children who had accompanied her in and out.

"I should think," said I, "that they'd had enough of the wilderness for good and all."

"Not a bit of it. You couldn't drive them out of the country with a club!"

A TRUE STORY.

Lonely it still is; yet are they up-to-date. Not only the plane is here, roaring above the haunts of the moose and the wolf. Caterpillar-tractors like miniature tanks wallow along, even after the snows have come, with their strings of sledges laden with ore from distant gold and silver mines to the shipping points on the river highways. They tell you many tall stories in this north—that you are not expected to believe. They are efforts in the nature of folk-imagination; and none of the fabricated ones are as haunting, or heroic, or odd, as the true ones.

When a man solemnly informed me that the rabbits had been cause of the loss of 15,000 dollars to one of the lode-mining companies in the hinterlands I waited for the catch, and the laugh. But there was no catch. There was only an explanation: a motor-tractor well on in the winter had been towing out, from Mayo to the Yukon River, a long string of sledges on which were sacks of ore. A blizzard had come and snowed it up. There was nothing for it but to drain the tractor, leave it there, "mush out" and report. It was not till well on in the spring that the men who had it in charge went back to bring out that ore, and when they came to the place where they had left it they found that rabbits by the hundred, seeking fodder, had gnawed away the sacks, nibbled them to pieces. When the ore was shovelled up into new sacks and carried to its destination, it appeared there was about 15,000 dollars' worth less than at starting.

LURE OF THE WILD.

Sudden spectacular fortunes have been made up here by men who have come upon rich placer-deposits and washed gold from the pay-dirt in their primitive pans. To-day large hydraulic companies are busy on many of these old placers. And in the river-beds huge dredges are at work where the early discoverers got gold by swirling water through the dirt in a pan. What are called the tailings from early workings are now, by modern methods, and with capital for the exploitation, turned over with considerable profit.

I have come to the conclusion that it is not only the greed of gold, not only the hope of sudden wealth, that keeps these men here. To talk with them is to discover that there is something else. It is the life. For some of us a comfortable seat in a club-corner near the hum of Piccadilly seems more appealing. But not for these. They can live on the land, fish, and hunt, support themselves like Indians when provisions from the store fail. And the fact that many who have, as they say, made good up here, and, leaving the country, proclaimed they would never return, return in a year or two, is evidence of the existence of that "lure." For not all of these by any means return because they have "blown" the fortune they took out with them.

There are others on whom one's mind also lingers—those who, with the eternal hope of making good by some great gold discovery, have not done so. For half the year they work for wages somewhere—anywhere, at anything. Then, with cash to buy provisions and outfit, off they set again into the wilderness. And that, year in, year out, is their story. The smouldering dream in their eyes is touched with something a little mad, somewhat pathetic.

AN OLD-TIMER.

On the steamer on which I came north here from Vancouver to Skagway ("the Gateway of the North") there was a returning prospector of 85. Having made good in the Yukon, he had gone out to Seattle, retired, and had not squandered his fortune. But he was once more heading for these scenes. As a matter of fact, he was turned back by the authorities later because he announced as his intended destination one of the most inaccessible parts of the north. Had he been allowed to go on it would have meant a long detour of a winter patrol to see if all was well with him. That at least it would have meant, and probably worse—a lonely death in the wilderness. So the Government officials sent him back whence he had come. He went back down the coast announcing that it was a crime that he should have been intercepted, and that a man is, after all, only as old as he feels. Eighty-five—and the spell of the North still held him.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Good Physicians.

Sir,—Perhaps the following, which I quote from memory, may be of interest as a corollary to the couplet from the "Regimen Sanitatis":—

A doctor, single, like a sculler plies,
The patient struggles and by inches dies.
But two physicians, like a pair of oars,
Will swiftly waft him to the Stygian shores.

London, W. EDGAR SYERS.

Gaelic and Erse.

Sir,—What most Saxons overlook, if indeed they have any thoughts at all on the subject, is that Erse is not a language, but merely a dialect of Scottish Gaelic spoken in the Western Highlands of Scotland.

Hampstead, N.W. MARTIN DOYLE.

Verbal Tact.

Sir,—Lord Beaconsfield's "lose no time in reading," recalled by a correspondent in your columns, was well matched by Sir Frederick Ouseley's reply to those who sent him their commonplace music. "Dear Sir," wrote that distinguished musician, "I have received your composition, and much like it."

By the way, your same correspondent attributes the "How is the old complaint?" question to Bishop Samuel Wilberforce. It was attributed to Lord Rosebery in an obituary notice. Previously, I had always heard it given to Lord Beaconsfield.

Felixstowe. W. H. HELM.

Capital Punishment.

Sir,—There is one other point in connection with the proposed abolition of capital punishment which has escaped attention.

If the murderer is to be kept for the remainder of his or her life at the expense of the State free from all anxiety and the vicissitudes of modern life—modern prisons are quite comfortable—should not the State also maintain in peace and comfort, free from all anxiety, the relatives of the victim of whose support, financial and otherwise, they have been deprived by the murderer?

Bexhill-on-Sea. W. ADDISON.

Hive Bees and Soot.

Sir,—Whatever may be the explanation, the fact that bees sometimes search out sooty places is beyond dispute. In Gilbert White's Journals, which I am now editing, this entry occurs:—

19 June, 1774: Bees frequent my chimneys, and they certainly extract somewhat from the soot, the pitchy part, I suppose.

White's inference may be wrong, but his observation will not be questioned.

Similarly, if a new swarm of bees cannot find resin to make the sticky substance known as propolis, they will visit paint shops to get varnish (Neighbour's "Apiary," 1578).

They have also depraved tastes, such as exploring dunghills; this is believed by some to be caused by the inability to find salt—a kind of dainty or a possible necessity.

Berber Road, S.W. WALTER JOHNSON.

Synthetic Roofing.

Sir,—In your last issue Mr. Arthur D. Little was reported to have made some detrimental remarks about bricks and tiles, and to have accused house builders of not availing themselves of modern materials for construction and decoration, in particular of "metallic and synthetic roofings."

Many of us in this country would be pleased if this were so, but the alien tone of the thinly covered roofs of many bungalows is a constant reminder that this is not wholly an age of clay.

There is a strongly rooted belief among designers that a house should "grow" out of its surroundings with, as far as possible, the aid of local materials, and thus form an integral part of the natural scheme. The English house is almost invariably associated with the garden, and not the factory, and its owner—if he is not solely concerned with placing a roof over his head—is willing to bear the extra expense entailed by what, in these days of mass production, some people prefer to regard as his idiosyncrasy.

Shrewsbury. ARCHITECT.

The Savoy Operas.

Sir,—Please allow me to thank all those readers who have so kindly written to me on the subject of my book. The first post brought me over sixty letters, and still they come, so I cannot possibly reply individually. I should like to remind at least one hundred of my correspondents that the scope of the book is strictly limited to bibliographic details and that reminiscences and biographic notes have no place in it.

Gilbert so chopped and changed his libretti that a "variorum edition" of the operas could easily rival the Shakespearean scholars with their wrangles over first folio and quarto readings. TOWNLEY SEARLE.

Gerrard Street, W.

Lord Beaconsfield's Birth.

Sir,—The following extract from my father's (the late Lord Coleridge) book, "The Story of a Devonshire House," p. 54, may be of interest.

Speaking of William Hart Coleridge, afterwards first Bishop of Barbados he says:—

He was ordained and became the curate at St. Andrew's, Holborn, where, according to the family tradition, he baptised Benjamin D'Israeli, afterwards Earl of Beaconsfield, who was, on July 31, 1817, received as one of "such as are of riper years."

PHILLIS M. COLERIDGE.

Cranley Gardens, S.W.

Sir,—Will you allow me to supplement Mr. Bennett's facts concerning the circumstance of Disraeli's baptism. His father, Isaac Disraeli, while a contributing member of the Portuguese Synagogue, Bevis Marks, was elected as Warden of the Congregation, but as he declined the honour, became subject, under its laws, to a money fine. This he refused to submit to, and resigned.

At that time the son Benjamin, then under 13, was allowed by Samuel Rogers's influence to be baptised as explained.

Eastbourne. S. J. HENOCHSBERG.

The Date of Christmas.

Sir,—In reply to "L. M. M." (Berkeley Street), the following may to some extent elucidate his question about the legend that Christmas Day was on the first of May. I quote from that astronomical classic popularly styled "The Flammarion":—

The Roman year commenced on March 1, and the twelve months were regulated thus:—1, Mars; 2, Aprilis; 3, Maia; 4, Junius; 5, Quintitis; 6, Sextitis; 7, September; 8, October; 9, November; 10, December; 11, Januaris; 12, Februarius. At present the month to which we have given the name of the seventh month of the year, September, is found to be the ninth month; October (the eighth) is the tenth; November (the ninth) is the eleventh, and December (the tenth) has become the twelfth and last. Can any more absurd designations be conceived? And all this because we have changed the beginning of the year from March, when spring commences, to January, which is generally the most gloomy and most melancholy month in the year. The present custom to begin the year on January 1 was adopted in England in 1752.

This was about the time Johnson was compiling his dictionary, and yet I can trace no reference to this important change in Boswell's "Life of Johnson."

Wembley. G. W. HANMER.

Sir,—It does not appear that there was any uniformity in the period of observing the Nativity among the early Churches; some held the festival in the month of May or April, conjointly with the feast of the Epiphany; therefore quite likely in old folk-lore Christmas Day and May Day have been combined. January 6 was also the old Christmas Day, but when Gregory XIII. reformed the calendar he fixed the date finally to December 25, and Julius I. (337-352) had also previously transferred the festival of January 6 to the never-to-be-forgotten day of our Thanksgiving.

A LOVER OF QUOTATIONS.

Hyde Park, W.

"Squatter's Right" in England.

Sir,—Your correspondent's question about "Squatter's right" in England may be answered by quoting what Lord Macnaghten said when delivering the judgment of the Privy Council in "Perry v. Clissold (1907 A.C. 73, at p. 79):—

It cannot be disputed that a person in possession of land in the assumed character of owner and exercising peaceably the ordinary rights of ownership has a perfectly good title against all the world but the rightful owner. And if the rightful owner does not come forward and assert his title by process of law within the period prescribed by the provisions of the Statute of Limitations applicable to the case, his right is for ever extinguished, and the possessory owner acquires an absolute title.

In England the Real Property Limitation Act, 1874, limits the time of action for the recovery of land or rent to twelve years next after the accrual of the right, subject to extensions for certain disabilities, but with thirty years as the maximum period.

These disabilities are coverture, infancy, and unsoundness of mind. But, as the result of the Married Women's Property Act, 1882, coverture has now practically ceased to operate in this way; and, as under the Law of Property Act, 1925, legal estates in land that would otherwise be vested in infants, lunatics or defectives, are now vested in trustees for them, there will be no further extensions on these grounds, and after this Act has been in operation for twelve years, the twelve years' limit will be of general application.

JAMES DUNDAS WHITE.

Reform Club, S.W.

Sir,—Squatter's right, or Title by Adverse Possession, is defined under the "Real Property Limitation Act, 1874" (37 and 38 Vict., c. 57)—the possession of a house, land, or other real property for twelve years without payment of rent or acknowledgment in writing to any person gives such possessor an absolute title to the property against all claimants, and an action to turn such possessor out of the property cannot be sustained.

Prior to the passing of that Act the limitation was twenty years. (3 and 4 Wm. IV., c. 27, s. 24.)

Trowbridge. JAMES STRONG.

Sir,—The law of England recognises "squatters"—i.e., a person who takes possession (at any rate, peaceful possession) of land and occupies it for a continuous period of twelve years, generally speaking, acquires a title to it.

It has been said that possession to found a title must be neither forcible, nor secret, nor by leave.

Northwood. J. ROWLAND HOPWOOD.

War in the Air.

From "TAFFRAIL."

Sir,—It is not necessary to write an article on war strategy to mislead the uninitiated. The statement which Admiral Mark Kerr made, and has neither withdrawn nor modified, was:—

The Air Ministry provides the first line of offence and defence, for undoubtedly in a future war the first attack will be made by the air, and warnings will not be given.

This is sufficiently dangerous to call forth an emphatic rejoinder.

What the Admiral *meant* by these words I cannot guess. I can only go upon what he *wrote*, which was a mis-statement calculated to encourage a belief that the Royal Air Force has taken over some, at any rate, of the traditional duties of the Royal Navy. This is not the case.

I retain my opinion as to the relative uses of destroyers and heavier-than-air craft for general trade protection, but starvation is still the most potent weapon that can be used against us, and the continuance of our food supplies in war with any maritime Power cannot be guaranteed except by the ships of our merchant and Royal Navies. Heavier-than-air craft can assist in the good work in certain conditions, but they cannot grant us our daily food. It is therefore wrong to say that "the Air Ministry provides the first line of defence."

TAPRELL DORLING,
Capt. R.N. ("Taffrail.").

Woking.

The "Ambling Canter."

Sir,—The dactylic line which Mr. Geoffrey Ellis recalls may be from the "Æneid," viii., 596:—

Quadrupedante putrem sonitu quatit ungula campum.

Similar instances (but containing one spondee in addition to the final one) are:—

Quadrupedumque putrem cursu quatit ungula campum.—("Æn." xi. 875.)

and

Pulverulenta fuga glomerant montesque relinquunt.—("Æn." iv, 153, 154.)

Eastbourne. W. FRANCIS.

Sir,—Surely there was never a better "cantering" line than the famous one in the "Iliad":—

πολλὰ δ' ἄναντα κατάντα πάραντά τε δοχμιά τ' ἦλθον.

Foulis Terrace, S.W. J. R.

Sir,—The actual line your correspondent remembers is from Virgil ("Æneid," viii., 596), and runs:—

Quadrupedante putrem sonitu quatit ungula campum.

Perhaps I might also quote two similar onomatoporic lines from Homer ("Iliad" ii., 465-6):—

'ες πεδίον προχέοντο Σκαμάδριον. α'υτὰρυπὸ χθὼν.
σμερδαλέον κονάβιζε ποδῶν αὐτῶν τε καὶ ἵππων,

and the last two lines of Tennyson's "Northern Farmer" (New Style):—

Coom oop—proputty, proputty,—that's what I 'ears 'em saäy.
Proputty, proputty, proputty,—canter and canter awaäy.

London. E. J. M. B.

Sir,—Does not Virgil's hexameter run thus?:—

Quadrupedante putrem sonitu quatit ungula campum?

This is my recollection of the line, though it is forty-five years since I saw it. Another line from the same poem, descriptive of the flight of a bird from a cave, appealed to my sense of rhythm:—

Radit itur liquidum, celeres neque commovit alas.

Ebury Street, S.W. HUGH MONGEAM.

[Replies have also been received from K. J. Burton (Parsons Green, S.W.), Stephen Simeon (Wimbledon), Elaine Sherman (Greencroft Gardens, N.W.), and Eduard Daubeney (Bristol).]

The Black Bull, Holborn.

Sir,—I have just read the article in the SUNDAY TIMES of October 5 headed "Housebreaker's Treasures," in which prominence is given to the historic model of the Black Bull now in the possession of Sir William Bull at Hammersmith.

You are hardly correct in describing this as a "stone" figure, as it was modelled in Portland stone cement (as distinct from the ordinary Portland cement) in the workshop of my great grandfather, William Lockwood, at Woodbridge, in Suffolk, by one of his workmen, Obadiah Pulham, in the opening years of last century and sent to London by sea. This William Lockwood was the inventor and first manufacturer of Portland stone cement.

A series of articles appeared in the "Woodbridge Reporter" in 1888, entitled "Woodbridge in the Olden Times," and were subsequently reprinted in book form. These articles contained an account of William Lockwood and his workmen, Obadiah and James Pulham, and in a list of the various London signs, etc., modelled by them the following paragraph appears:—

Amongst those that remain to this day there is the sign of the Black Bull in Holborn, nearly life-size, which was modelled by Obadiah Pulham who was specially clever at animals, his brother James being more employed on figure subjects, etc.

Obadiah Pulham left Mr. Lockwood's service in 1827 and worked for many years in Italy and France, returning to Woodbridge to retire in the late sixties.

WM. LOCKWOOD.

Brisbane, Australia.

Quaint Inn Signs.

Sir,—The Landogger Tavern referred to by your correspondent, "Ivrea," is, or was, in Old King Street, Bristol, and not upon the quay.

Although the name was very familiar to me, as I used to pass the house very frequently as a lad, I could not remember its exact locality, but, on reading "Ivrea's" letter last Sunday morning, I looked through some etchings of old Bristol in my possession published by Messrs. Frost and Reed about fifty years ago, and among them found one of the Landogger Tavern in Old King Street.

BRISTOLIENSIS.

St. James' Court, S.W.

Sir,—Two summers ago I visited the model village of Stedham, near Midhurst (Sussex), famous for a venerable yew of great girth, which adorns the picturesque churchyard. I was astonished to find the one small inn advertised by an artistic sign of a very rampant gnu. The genial vicar of Midhurst informed me that the sign of the Gnu Inn was, however, only a pleasantry on the part of the brewers, who apparently thought the old title of New Inn no longer suitable.

Cardiff. MAURICE SPURWAY.

Sir,—Another puzzling sign is that of the Ram Jam Inn at Stretton Oakham, on the Great North Road. The pictorial sign represents what appears to be the landlady hugging a huge barrel, while, in the background, with an ironical smile, a highwayman's figure is retiring. Formerly the Winchelsea Arms, local tradition has it that a travelling rogue undertook to impart the valuable secret of drawing mild and bitter ale from the one barrel. Having had his fill and deposited his baggage into a ready coach, he requested a gimlet and retired with my lady. On one side of a large barrel he pierced a hole and requested the dame to hold her thumb over it: then he proceeded to drill the other side. Thus, to preserve her beer, the landlady was left embracing the barrel, while the rogue graciously retired to his coach.

The Next Boat By St. Paul's, Upper Thames Street, was an inn which issued trade tokens, and on them were represented three men in a boat, with the legend Next Boat. The allusion was to watermen awaiting fares. The old cry of the day was a confused din of "Next oars" or "Next boat" shouted at intending passengers or anyone in the vicinity of the water stairs, after the fashion of certain Continental porters.

The Bull and Butcher, Hever, is a corrupted form of "Bullen Butchered." Both signs have now disappeared; in that place the Boleyn family had large possessions, and the original reference was to the death of Anne, the consort of Henry VIII. The George and Cannon was not originally so warlike; its original was "George Canning."

Croydon. R. B.

George Barrington.

Sir,—The publication of the life of George Barrington, "prince of pickpockets," mentioned in the SUNDAY TIMES of October 6, which has just reached here, brings to memory a story concerning this notorious criminal told me by an old member of the English Bar many years ago.

Barrington, who was convicted at the Old Bailey, was transported to Botany Bay, where he rapidly gained the favour of the officials owing to his excellent conduct as a prisoner, and was accordingly allowed considerable freedom, within bounds, not readily accorded to convicts generally. At an afternoon tea given by the wife of the Governor, to which Barrington was invited, the hostess suggested for the entertainment of the guests that Barrington should perform some of his tricks (as she tactfully put it) of "sleight-of-hand." Barrington, with much affected dignity, politely refused, with the plea that he desired all memories of his earlier life should be forgotten. Later, in bidding farewell to the hostess, Barrington drew her attention to the fact that one of her earrings was missing, and, with a courtly bow, handed her the jewel, which during the afternoon he had evidently deftly removed from her ear.

Melbourne, Australia. NAHUM BARNET.

The Trade Disputes Act.

Sir,—One of your correspondents draws attention to the common mistake of writing Trades Disputes Act and Trades Union. He is right. It is a law of the English language, established by practice, that when a noun in plural form is used adjectivally the "s" is omitted. Many instances could be cited, such as racquet court, billiard ball, and notably parcel post. When this was first instituted it was officially styled parcels post, but after a few weeks the title was officially altered to parcel post. Trades Union is wrong both in form and logic, for it is a union of men in one trade—but of course the Trades Union Congress are entitled to call themselves what they like, and that is their official title.

Kineton. ERNEST PARKE.

Greek into Latin.

Sir,—I must thank you for allowing me, and the few other persons interested, to see in print some Latin renderings of my Greek epitaph on the Unknown Warrior in the Abbey. Your liberality will be complete if you can give any space for my own version:—

Aeterno positum somno me quattuor annos
Desierant ranco Marte ciere tubae;
Dein populi iussu, sextum velut exsul in annum
Abditus, ut patriae denique reddar humo,
Efferor exsequiis iustis, iterumque reposti
Conditur augusta corpus in aede meum.
Invideasne uni, quod tot meruere, sepulcrum?
Immo pares cunctos huic suus adscit honor.

Cheltenham. T. C. WEATHERHEAD.

"Humorous Stage."

Sir,—In reply to the inquiry of Mr. L. E. K. Thomas about the meaning of "humorous stage" in stanza vii of Wordsworth's "Intimations of Immortality," the quotation is taken from the dedication of Daniel's "Musophilus," a poem in defence of learning which appeared in 1599. It means the stage on which the "humours" of mankind are shown. By a humour was then meant a particular trait of character.

Belfast. H. SHACHTER.

A Nautical Riddle.

Sir,—One answer to the sea-riddle, "The wind was west, and west steered we," is that the vessel was between the true and magnetic poles, where west (true) is east (magnetic), and vice versa.

Thus a vessel steering west (true) with the wind west (magnetic) would have the wind right aft.

I regret no one answered a former correspondent's query as to the origin of the blue stripe round a vessel as a sign of mourning. Does no one know?

E. A. PRIESTLEY.

Torrington Square, W.C.

Readers' Queries.

[The number of readers' queries that reach us is now so great that a small proportion only can be published and we endeavour, therefore, to make a selection of those of most general interest.]

In drama, novels, and all kinds of literature which deal with the sixteenth century I find frequent reference to the existence of a ring set with a stone that possessed the property of being able to change colour when placed near poison. Has there ever been any foundation for supposing that such a stone ever actually existed?—J. D. Burridge, Brighton.

I should be much obliged if any of your readers could enlighten me as to the significance and origin of the inscription "Win it and wear it," engraved on a fine English silver ewer in my possession which bears the court hand date letter F for 1701. Above the inscription, which is obviously contemporary with the ewer, is engraved a representation of a cockfight.—Roland Ruffer (Lombard St., E.C.).

Where can I find "He who takes offence where none is meant himself offends"?—Misty (Brooksville Avenue, N.W.).

Can a fellow reader give any particulars of St. Yse, thought to be a Cornish saint, and whether any connection with the Brittany saint St. Yves, patron saint of lawyers?—K. B. (London, E.C.).

IRISH FREE STATE.

PUBLIC ORDER.

INFLUENCE OF THE CHURCH.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

DUBLIN, Saturday.

At this season it seems fitting to reply to the challenge of a friendly critic who has suggested that any progress made since the Treaty has been material rather than spiritual, and that the old elements of bitterness, cruelty, and hate still lurk beneath a seemingly calm surface. It is difficult to arrive at standards by which a matter of this kind can be tested. Certain crimes, notably infanticide, may have increased; other offences such as agrarian outrages and cattle driving have diminished, and probably the best positive index is the decrease of some 20 per cent. in our prison population.

The common belief that the Irish are lawless people is based on a long record of political crime. After due allowance for the civil war and its aftermath there seems to be a gradual but steady return to orderly habits which are the outcome of a peaceful disposition, rather than fear. The probable explanation of this is the recovery of the power of the Church. During the disturbances, when such a practice as that of "unauthorised murder" was recognised, the weakening of moral sanctions and authority was to be expected. But people either in the mass or individually seem ready to forget unpleasant memories, and the priests appear to be recovering their former power.

It may be wondered how this is done in the face of education, travel, and other emancipating influences. Emigration is the probable explanation. At one time America absorbed the more adventurous of our young people. This outlet has now been reduced to a mere trickle, and yet the surplus population is not a conscious problem. The general belief is that increasing numbers are going to England, where many find employment in domestic service, while others manage to qualify for the dole. The extent to which this is done will possibly be indicated by the forthcoming census.

KICKING AGAINST THE PRICKS.

It seems as if the divisions of the future will be between these two divergent elements of stability on the one hand, and material progress on the other. I mentioned recently the case of the County Mayo librarian. As the result of the inquiry the Council has been allowed to the end of the year to make the appointment, failing which its dissolution and replacement by a Commissioner will probably follow. This case may have exceptional features on account of the religious element, but hardly a month passes that some local authority is not kicking against the pricks of the central authority. The blame, moreover, is not entirely one-sided. Elected representatives object to being made the mere instruments of bureaucracy. In the matter of appointments it is doubtful that it is wise to deprive them of all discretion. It should at least be possible to leave a few names of suitable persons to their final choice. This was believed to be the intention of the original Act which deprived them of full patronage.

THE FARMER'S VIEW-POINT.

With all their crudities, lack of business aptitude, parochial outlook, and even mild nepotism, these unsophisticated farmers possess a strong strain of common sense. They bring to bear on public affairs the outlook of their vocation and home life, where money is collected by screwing and scraping, and where the apostles of progress are viewed with suspicion. It is this mentality that made certain councils refuse motor-cars, and even typewriters, and fix salaries at the level of their own modest earnings. It is these same people who object to costly social services, who refuse to appoint medical officers of health and to incur all the expense their reforms eventually entail.

There is a strong parallel between the peasants in Ireland and in France. Both are thrifty and individualistic, resentful of authority, tenacious of the soil, and both in their different ways are the chief source of national strength. This effort on the part of the so-called educated urban section to force the pace and make the country people move faster than they are disposed, and their means allow, is a mistaken policy. It is spurious not real progress, and it is a movement which the farmers should resist.

NEW HIGH COMMISSIONER.

The promotion of Mr. Dulanty from the post of Trade Commissioner, where he did excellent work in difficult times, to that of High Commissioner, is popular and well deserved. Mr. Dulanty has had a varied career—academic, official, and commercial. He understands and is well qualified to reconcile the widely differing mentalities of the two countries. It is at all times a post that requires qualities both of tact and good humour, and one that may call for exceptional qualities if Treaty and debt revision are seriously attempted. Professor Smiddy, the outgoing Commissioner, now becomes Chairman of the Tariff Commission, a responsible but thankless job. The Commission is now to become a whole-time body, and is empowered to make investigations at the request of the Government, instead of, as heretofore, only on the application of outside parties. This is a concession to the opposition, who wish to impose tariffs wholesale without inquiry and irrespective of the effect on prices.

TARIFF PROPOSALS.

The need for some machinery to investigate tariff proposals was well illustrated by a motion discussed in the Senate last week to impose five shillings per cwt. on imported bacon. It came from the Republican benches. The proposer said he was imperfectly acquainted with the subject and the seconder frankly said he knew nothing at all about it. Yet they expected the house to blindly accept the motion, which it wisely refused to do. The matter is to go before the Commission. The chief argument was that the consumers who have the bad taste to prefer American bacon should be taxed for their lack of patriotism. As a matter of fact, they prefer it because it is fatter, keeps longer, and helps to "grease the cabbage!"

From the Sea to Peking.

Sir,—Both methods of debarking freight and passengers were in operation in the early 'eighties, and for many years afterwards.

The south bank of the Hai Ho was bunded along the frontage of the British and French Concessions, and wharfing, or, more correctly, quays, extended outwards to a depth sufficient to permit the small coasting steamers to berth alongside.

The north bank remained without either bunding or quays along the Russian and Belgian concession frontages, save for isolated individual efforts. The big oil companies made use of the floating, pontoon system, which they still use to-day.

The ships without berthing facilities used sampans and lighters, as all the early quays were (as they remain) private property, owned by the old British firms, Butterfield and Swire and Indo-China Steam Navigation Co., Ltd. (Jardine, Matheson), and others.

It might be noted that during the 'nineties the river silted up so badly that the smallest steamers could not navigate the Hai Ho, and passengers and freight came from Taku in lighters, or by train. Some steamers at other times got only within twelve miles of Tientsin.

Conservancy schemes (notably by the Haiho Conservancy Board) have fought these disabilities, and by numerous cuttings, dredgings, and bundings have shortened the Hai Ho from its original fifty-five miles to thirty-five. The work is still being done.

Gloucester Road, S.W. Q. D. R.

OUR PARIS LETTER

M. STEEG'S TROUBLES.

THE CHRISTMAS RESPITE.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

PARIS, Saturday.

Christmas is giving a blessed respite from the political agitations of these past weeks—a respite which should last until the middle of next month, when M. Steeg will once more have to face Parliament. This first fortnight in the life of his Ministry has been, to say the least of it, unusual. For, when only ten days in office, the Prime Minister had on Tuesday to appoint no fewer than five new members of his Cabinet. The reason was simple. But all the same such a thing can have happened to few heads of Governments. Two Under-Secretaries had thrown up their appointments within twenty-four hours of accepting office, while on the morning of the day that the Cabinet was to meet Parliament for the first time their example was followed by a Minister and two more Under-Secretaries.

M. Steeg thus came before the Chamber last week with a Government shorn of five of its members, all of whom represented the Centre Groups of the Chamber. Consequently, the Cabinet was lacking in a considerable proportion of precisely those elements which ostensibly made it a Government of "conciliation" between Left and Centre. The very fact of these resignations proved, however, in itself that such "conciliation" was in reality totally inexistent. M. Steeg must have congratulated himself on the ineffective tactics of the Opposition, which allowed him to scrape through the critical first sitting by a bare majority of seven votes.

The next day, realising that such things do not always happen twice, he took advantage of the approach of Christmas and sent Parliament home for a month. M. Tardieu had done likewise when things were getting hot in the Chamber at the end of July. But this, of course, this does not prevent the Opposition from heaping abuse on M. Steeg for his action.

PARTY PASSIONS.

In filling the gaps in his Cabinet M. Steeg has again drawn from the Centre Groups, and thus maintained on paper its "coalition" character. The new Minister of Pensions, M. Dormann and three Under-Secretaries belong to M. Tardieu's Group of the Republicans of the Left, while the remaining Under-Secretary belongs to the Left Centre Group of the Radical Left. But this "coalition" has no real basis since the groups in question regard as renegades those members who have accepted portfolios. All that it is is co-operation between individuals. For the arrival in power of a Government headed by, and largely composed of, Radical Socialists has let loose the bitterest party hostility, and there is hardly any calamity which the Opposition Press does not foretell as its necessary corollary.

In the three weeks' freedom from Parliament which M. Steeg has before him he will have time to take stock of the situation. Something very unexpected will have to happen before Parliament reassembles if the Government is not to find itself the target of the bitterest attacks from the Centre and the Right. Very little definite work has been accomplished since the Chamber met at the beginning of November, and the prospective atmosphere of January seems hardly likely to be favourable to it either.

A DULLER CHRISTMAS.

Christmas 1930 has not found the Frenchman in a very happy frame of mind. The big shops, it is true, have for weeks past amused the public with their ingenious and beautiful electric illuminations; shop windows have been crowded with attractive things for presents; the *marché aux fleurs* has been full of Christmas-trees; and Christmas Eve found a *réveillon* in progress in every restaurant. But who until this year has ever seen tradesmen choose the weeks before Christmas for selling off and reducing prices? Yet in shop after shop there have been notices of bargain sales. For the public has not money to spend, and rather than not sell at all shops prefer to reduce their prices and cut their losses. At the turn of the year it seems, in fact, as though France were just beginning to experience herself the effects of the general economic crisis, which hitherto she has only watched in other countries.

One result of the shortage of cash has been to bring down somewhat the prices of all the unnecessary things that people have to buy at Christmas. Hence, too, restaurant keepers evidently thought it wiser to reduce to a slightly more reasonable level the ridiculous prices which in the bumper years they charged for *réveillon*. After all, *foie gras*, toy balloons, and paper streamers are not necessities, even on Christmas Eve, and it is quite possible to have a *réveillon* at home. But when for paper streamers, toy balloons, and *foie gras* you substitute bread, meat, and milk, then the story changes completely. The dull necessaries of life know no reduction; like Shelley's sky-lark their motto might well be "Higher still and higher." No; decidedly not a very merry Christmas.

NEW COINS.

Talking of money, visitors to Paris will soon find a change in their small change. The pieces of fifty centimes and one and two francs now current bear on them the inscription not of the Republique Française but of the Chambre de Commerce de France. They are, in fact, merely tokens. Now, however, these are in due course to be withdrawn and in their place is to be put in circulation a currency of aluminium bronze but issued by the State and bearing the traditional motto of "Liberté, Egalité, Fraternité."

This will be a first step in currency reform, the next being the substitution of the silver coins which are already being minted for the ten and twenty franc notes. But two more years will have to run before this change takes place, and presumably by that time the authorities will have made up their minds what to do about the five franc note. This difficulty is largely a psychological one. A silver coin representing the value of five francs would be so very small in comparison with the great heavy pre-war *écu* that it would probably bring home to the general public in a much more striking fashion than anything else has done the fact that stabilisation has resulted in dividing the franc by five.

Suggestions have been made for a big coin of some other metal, but tradespeople are apparently against this. A question, too, that is frequently raised is whether or no the design for a one hundred franc gold piece which received a prize from the State a couple of years ago will ever really be used in the minting of gold coins. People who read that the gold reserves of the Bank of France are now well over £400,000,000, and hear that this plethora of gold is an encumbrance rather than a blessing are apt to say, "why not make it into gold coins?" One reply made to this is that if gold coins were put into circulation they would very speedily disappear from it again, and instead of helping in the movement of affairs would simply become an inert mass of precious metal hidden away by the peasant in some safe place. For even the substitution of notes for gold has not killed the traditional French habit of hoarding.

Constitutions are not made by the philosophers. They are made by the minds and experience and history of the people.—The Prime Minister.

The Civil Service really did not, during the war, constitute one huge "funk-hole," swarming with "Cuthberts."—Sir Warren Fisher, Permanent Secretary to the Treasury.

All modern movements and agitations, whatever the end they envisage, date from Christmas. Before the first Christmas there were no movements and no agitations.—Father Ronald Knox.

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PRIC

THE CONTINENT IN TRANSITION.

DECAY OF PARLIAMENTS.

MENACE OF BOLSHEVISM.

By A CORRESPONDENT.

England was the first country to develop Parliamentary institutions. A few months' travelling on the Continent makes one wonder whether it may not be the last to maintain them. The dictatorships in Italy and Russia have been imitated with varying success in all the major countries except France. And in France, even before it succumbed to the depression advancing over the Atlantic, doubts were freely expressed about the infallible efficacy of the democratic watchwords which had proved so adequate a narcotic for the people since the storming of the Bastille. The opinion here, as elsewhere, has gained ground that great questions of policy, urgent problems in economics or difficult decisions in public health are just as unlikely to be correctly settled by submitting them to the free vote of an extensive electorate as would be arguments about the merits of the principle of relativity or the best method of applying insulin for the cure of diabetes.

THE FASCISTI.

Rightly or wrongly, the more virile and successful elements of the population feel that if the State accepts responsibility for the welfare of the individual, they, the élite of the population who bear the load, should dominate the State. Few people, especially few young people, are content to doubt that they form part of the élite, and this standpoint, which made so much for the success of the Fascisti in Italy, is likely to increase the numbers of the Nationalist Socialist Party in Germany. This party, which makes its appeal chiefly to the younger generation, has many of the characteristics which have originated great movements in the history of mankind, some of the fanaticism of the followers of Mohammed, some of the self-conscious righteousness of the Puritan Fathers, and not a little of the ruthlessness which has enabled the members of the Communist Party to dominate Russia.

TREATY REVISION.

The danger of the rule of such a party in Germany is rendered more acute than in other countries by the obsession of the population with the Treaty of Versailles. Like the rest of the world, and for much the same cause, Germany is suffering from the universal depression. Unlike the rest of the world, Germany has an immediate and obvious cause to which it can point to account for its sufferings. When our Government is challenged for its incapacity in dealing with unemployment, it can only refer vaguely to the world-wide slump. In Germany it has simply to point to the Reparation payments. Where we grope after a solution for the difficulties of our industries the Germans blame the scrap of paper which they signed in 1920. Their queues of unemployed are victims of the French *revanche*, their poor witnesses to the brutality of the Allies.

With these views so widely diffused, it is obvious that a party which frankly promises to tear up the Treaty of Versailles is sure of a large following. Even though it has handicapped itself by espousing anti-semitism, even though its leaders appear to be innocent of the most elementary facts of the political situation, it can rely upon the enthusiastic support of millions of the idealistic young men and of the sentimental, if hot-headed, young women, who recall, though they cannot remember, the splendours of Imperial Germany.

THE FIVE-YEARS PLAN.

The future of Europe depends largely upon the relations between Germany and Russia. Events east of the Vistula are one of the main preoccupations of the German people. The resurrection of the vast inchoate nation straddling the land masses between Asia and Europe dominates the thoughts of those who will be exposed to the first assault. The five-years plan, about which we talk with a pitying shrug, appears sinister and formidable from the nearer standpoint of industrial Germany. Bankers and producers examine its progress with anxious care.

Its advance, menacing Western industrialism as the growth of the German fleet threatened England before 1914, is a spectre which haunts every mind. Modern methods of production, up-to-date machinery, served by conscript labour enjoying, or, at any rate, reduced to, a standard of living such as we should not admit in our prisons, are to be pitted against the efforts of the West. Russia at present, denuded of facilities for manufacturing arms and munitions, is to be enabled to produce by the most economical processes all the requisites for a European conflict.

Every effort in Russia is being made to train scientists and engineers; money and labour are squandered if they may lead to improved methods of production. The physical laboratory in Leningrad has an annual grant greater than the total sums given to all the Universities by the Government of Great Britain. Every facility is afforded to any form of scientific activity or endeavour. All the most expensive apparatus, to buy which an English professor saves from his meagre grant for months and years, is available in profusion in the Russian laboratories. Every inducement and encouragement, pecuniary and other, is offered. Lip-service, but no more, is demanded to the doctrine of Communism.

RIGID SELF-SACRIFICE.

This vast conception is the fruit of the cogitations of the few dozen men who rule Russia. It is being carried out by the fanatical efforts of the members of the Communist Party. They are represented often as self-seeking, comfort-loving men, who have joined the organisation for the sake of wealth and luxury. Nothing could be further from the truth. A member of the party, after his novitiate, is subject to the most rigid discipline; he is under the most elaborate espionage. Where others keep what they have earned, save for taxation, which is less onerous than in England, the Communist is compelled to hand over to his organisation every penny beyond the meagre sum of £10 a month. He is deprived of material comfort, his freedom, and even his life are in greater jeopardy than those of the ordinary citizen.

His recompense is political power. Like the Puritans, he is prepared to sacrifice everything provided he can order the lives of his neighbours and enjoy the knowledge that his will dominates the policy of his country. The Communist Party in Russia is far more dangerous than it would be were it more corrupt. Revolting as are its ideals and unpleasant as are its methods, the motives of its members are comparable rather to the spirit that impelled the members of the Society of Jesus to brave the perils of the stake and the scalping knife than to the motives that induce the directors of a large company to visit their offices every morning.

WHAT OF THE FUTURE?

The more intelligent portion of German opinion regards Russia as the Sphinx, which holds the answer to the question, What of the future? If the five-years plan is not a fiasco, we stand before the prospect of dumping not only of primary commodities, but of manufactured articles, such as the world has never seen. European industry, and with it European civilisation, can be crushed just as effectively by economic as by military pressure. While we debate whether domestic service is fit alternative occupation and squabble about local loans to reduce unemployment, our Government is giving credits to enable the Soviet to buy the machinery which will throw our men out of work, and allowing the Trade Facilities Act to be used to arm a nation of 140 millions to impose its will upon the West.

WHITEHALL.

ITS HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS.

SOME TRAGIC SCENES.

By WALTER G. BELL.

"Whitehall" would be sufficient title for the "L.C.C. Survey of London": Parish of St. Margaret, Westminster, Part II. (Batsford. £2 12s. 6d.), for with that alone it deals. A baker's dozen of these parish books, authoritative and for reference indispensable, have now been issued by the L.C.C. and the London Survey Committee jointly, and of them all this is the most important.

King Charles I. perished on the scaffold before Whitehall, and within the Palace Oliver Cromwell's unquiet spirit passed that night of ominous storm, the fury of which kept the date in the minds of Londoners. Earlier Henry VIII. died at Whitehall. Earlier still, Wolsey moved about, seeing his building schemes taking shape. As the last phase Whitehall Palace lodged Charles II., his mistresses, and his ribald Court. There on his death-bed he apologised for being such an unconscionable time in dying.

James II. fled from Whitehall never to return. In the beautiful Banqueting House which stands against the wide street William and Mary were offered, and accepted, the Crown of England. Then, after a period of neglect, in 1697 Whitehall Palace went up in flame.

WOLSEY'S YORK PLACE.

Most people, I suppose, believe that the Royal associations of Whitehall began with Henry VIII.'s seizure of York Place. Wolsey's enlargements were then uncompleted, and Henry made them much more extensive. Doubtless it was from the whiteness of the new stones that the name "Whitehall" became attached to the Royal Palace. Mr. W. W. Baines has written the historical section of this book, and has delved deeply among old building accounts and parchments with somewhat surprising results.

He shows that so far distant as the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries the King had some kind of ownership in, or lien upon, the Archbishop of York's London house. Royal masons and carpenters were set to work to repair "the King's great chamber," "the King's Chapel," "the Queen's wardrobe," and other parts of the Archbishop's dwelling. It is all mystifying.

Of all the Tudor building there survives only a solitary groined crypt, above which Cromwell House, in Whitehall Gardens, is erected. The crypt is in use to-day as a staff luncheon room. When Charles II. came back from exile there was a scurrying round the town for purloined furnishings, plate, and pictures from Whitehall Palace. From Oliver Cromwell's widow the Council of State recovered and brought back no fewer than "seventeen carts' load of rich housestuff."

KING CHARLES'S EXECUTION.

Notable in the book is a very full account, historical and architectural, of Inigo Jones's Banqueting House, with incidental mention that the tablet which records "the scaffold erected in front of this spot" is misplaced. King Charles's execution took place in front of the north windows. The story told, as I heard it, is that workmen came with the plaque and orders to fix it. Nobody knew where it should go, and, for symmetry's sake, it was placed plumb in the centre of the façade. That may not be true.

Appositely this volume appears, for Whitehall Gardens entire is threatened with demolition. The Government want the ground for great new blocks of public offices to shelter our ever-growing bureaucracy. If these Georgian houses—each one of which is described and illustrated—offer little to detain the passer-by, many still contain admirably decorated rooms and good balustrades and ornament where interiors have not been entirely sacrificed to utility. Peel himself built No. 4 (now joined with No. 3), and died in the dining room there, to which he was brought after he had been thrown from his horse.

Gwydyr House faces Whitehall. It is probably forgotten that its last use before Government occupation was as the Reform Club. Even the Victorian Montagu House of the Dukes of Buccleuch has become public offices, and, save for a last private resident or two lingering in Richmond Terrace, the all-conquering bureaucracy has made a clean sweep of Whitehall.

This is a book to be treasured, and it will be of growing value to all London lovers in the years to come. The King has allowed, for the frontispiece, a reproduction of the picture in the Royal galleries which represents Whitehall Palace as seen from the river in 1683, wherein it appears as a somewhat disorderly collection of houses.

MEN, WOMEN, AND MEMORIES.

LORD IRWIN'S SUCCESSOR—AIR-CRAFT, BRITISH AND OTHER—STALIN AND RYKOFF—GEORGE ELIOT—PERRY ROBINSON.

By ATTICUS.

The appointment of Lord Willingdon to be Lord Irwin's successor as Viceroy has been greeted with approval in all quarters except those of the extreme Indian Nationalists, who disapprove of all Viceroys. Lord Willingdon's qualifications for the greatest post but one under the British Crown cannot be gainsaid. He has shown in his long career of public service that he has the qualities of tact, patience, judgment, and firmness which will assuredly be required at Delhi and Simla during the next five years. And he has had just the right experience. He has had a seat in the House of Commons and held office in the Ministry. He has been Governor of Madras as well as Governor of Bombay, and has taken the measure of the latter restless and Congress-ridden presidency. And he has been Governor-General of Canada, where he has won golden opinions and gained, at first hand, a precise knowledge of what Dominion Government is and what "Dominion status" means.

ANNO DOMINI!

He has only one possible disability. If he goes to India when Lord Irwin is due to return next April, he will be well on the way to his 65th birthday. Is that not rather an advanced age for a man to take up a peculiarly difficult and responsible office, which will involve exceptional fatigue and incessant labour in a trying climate? May not the strain unduly tax the physical resources even of a good sportsman and former athlete who was in his earlier days captain both of the Eton and Cambridge elevens? Most of the rulers of India, at least in recent times, have shaken the tropic dust off their feet before they had attained Lord Willingdon's present years.

India is not an old man's country for the Briton. It is true that under the East India Company régime many of its military officers and civil officials held their posts long after their youth had passed. When the Mutiny of 1857 broke out the Honourable Company's army had its generals of 70, its colonels of 60, and its captains in their 50's. But the precedent is not encouraging. Things went very badly at first under these hesitating veterans, until the balance was restored by John Nicholson, and the other daring and vigorous young leaders from the Punjab. I do not forget that Henry Havelock was 61 when he made his great effort, but I remember also that he died in making it.

AN UNEASY REFLECTION.

Christmas wishes for peace and good will among the nations are being uttered in many countries, and nowhere with more sincerity than in this one. We, in Great Britain, have the best of reasons for hoping that the peace may be kept, for we have no sort of inducement to break it. We have shown our devotion to the cause of national disarmament in the most practical fashion by going a long way to disarming ourselves. The American Navy Department has just submitted to the citizens of the United States a little Christmas-box in the shape of an estimate for a total outlay of £280,000,000 during the next five years. This is in order to give the States "parity" with ourselves, but it is a parity which—considering the respective demands of the two navies—will make the American striking power far and away stronger than our own. Thirty millions of the American estimate is to be expended on the Naval Air Force.

In the same issue of the "Daily Telegraph" from which I cull these particulars I read an article by Mr. Hector Bywater, wherein that excellent authority informs us that in the naval air arm we do not stand first, nor second, nor third, and perhaps not fourth. We are surpassed by the United States, France, and Italy, and are barely equal to Japan! Also the officers and men of our fleets will be far inferior in number to those of America, and not much ahead of the Japanese. So we may pray with unusual fervour for "Peace in our time, O Lord!"

THE RED DICTATOR.

The supersession of Rykoff as President of the Council of Commissars removes the last of Stalin's rivals and leaves that resolute despot in unchecked control of the U.S.S.R. One after another the abler men, who tried to stand up to him in the Soviet Inner Council, have been shunted out. The little group who helped Lenin to make the revolution of 1917, Trotsky, Bukharin, Tomsky, Zinovieff, and Chicherin, have all gone, and Stalin remains with the whole machinery of repression at his disposal. He is a more absolute dictator than Lenin was without exercising the unique personal influence which Lenin inspired.

That strange genius, if he had lived, might have succeeded in dispensing with the Ogpu and the other apparatus of terrorism. Stalin cannot do without such aid. He uses it mercilessly. But as it seems that he can rely upon his secret police and the Red Army, there is small prospect of that long overdue counter-revolution. Besides, I think Young Russia thoroughly believes in the Five Years' Plan, and means it to be tried out. If it proves a complete failure — then, perhaps, things may happen.

THE ELIXIR OF LIFE.

Miss Jill Cossley-Batt, who is going out to examine the mysterious cave-dwelling tribes who live among the recesses of the Himalayas, is still young, but old enough to be an experienced and well-informed traveller. She knows something about high latitudes and hard climates, for she has made adventurous journeys in the Arctic and sub-Arctic regions of the Northern Canadian territories, and has lived among cannibals in South-West Africa. In her Asiatic tour she will be accompanied by a Canadian doctor; and between them the two travellers will have a working knowledge of numerous Oriental languages, alive and dead, so perhaps they will be able to talk to the folk of the lost tribes when they find them.

These cave-dwellers are said to have discovered the secret of perpetual youth, and of something like immortality. They habitually live for anything between 130 and 160 years, and they retain their youthful vitality so long unimpaired that it is quite common for blushing brides to be led to the altar at the age of 75. I hope Miss Cossley-Batt will be able to tell us how these remarkable results are attained. Perhaps a little preliminary inquiry into the local system of compiling birth, death, and marriage statistics might also be advisable.

A FORGOTTEN CELEBRITY.

It was fifty years ago on Monday last that George Eliot, who was also Miss Evans and Mrs. Cross, passed away. Much was said for and against this once-famous novelist in her own lifetime, but I suppose scarcely anybody would have predicted that half a century after her death she would have been almost forgotten. In the later mid-Victorian period she was not only celebrated, but popular, and for a time something like a best-seller. For one of her novels ("Middlemarch," I think it was) the publishers were said to have paid her £7,000 in advance, which was a big sum to give for any novel in those days, or, for that matter, even in these.

Why she has faded out so completely it is difficult to say, for contemporary writers of far inferior power and accomplishment have kept their vogue. The present generation finds her old-fashioned, and I suppose tame. All the same, they might do worse than read "Adam Bede" and "Silas Marner," even if they neglect the works of George Eliot's later period, when she had been spoilt by imbibing excessive doses of G. H. Lewis's pseudo-philosophy.

NATURALIST AND WAR "SPECIAL."

The late Sir Harry Perry Robinson was one of three brothers who were all good journalists and good naturalists. Phil Robinson wrote delightfully about British birds and animals, and both his brothers were interested in these subjects, and could put their knowledge into print. But Perry Robinson had found many other things to interest him in the course of a varied and enterprising life. After graduating at Christ Church, Oxford, he went off to America, took to journalism, advertising, railway affairs, and political management. He might, if he had wished, have obtained an important post in Uncle Sam's diplomatic service. He preferred to return to England and English newspaper-work.

In the Great War he acted as correspondent for some leading English journals. Many writers were allowed to undertake occasional short missions at the Front; but Robinson was among that very small and select band of correspondents—there were only five of them—who went right through the war, were furnished with special facilities, were attached to the G.H.Q. Staff, and wore, with a slight modification, the uniform of officers. Robinson, with the others, received the K.B.E., and the special silk flag presented after the Armistice by Field-Marshal Haig. His health was impaired by his exertions during the campaign, but he continued to write on his favourite topics—which were not warlike—till the end.

"THE TOWN": MEN AND INTIMACIES

By "AUTOLYCUS."

The Duke of Portland is 73 to-day. Students of Burke are puzzled to find that His Grace inherited the Barony of Bolsover from his step-mother by special remainder. It is a very special remainder by which a man who is not a blood relation inherits a peerage from its first holder; and all the stranger when the predecessor has left sons and daughters. The explanation is provided by "G. E. C." in "The Complete Peerage." Had the present Duke's father, General Cavendish-Bentinck, lived two years longer he would have become the sixth Duke, and his second wife would have become the Duchess. His younger children were given the rank and precedence of the children of a Duke, and his widow was created Baroness Bolsover for life, with the proviso that at her death the title was to merge in the Portland Dukedom. Disraeli, unlike some of his successors, was averse from any lavish increase in the peerage.

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The year of the Duke's marriage to Miss Dallas-Yorke brought him a wonderful run of luck on the Turf, when two horses carried off between them what is reputed to have been the largest sum ever netted by any racehorse owner in a single year. Many old folk near Welbeck have reason to remember and bless that phenomenal run of luck, for the Duke devoted a large part of the proceeds to the erection of almshouses, appropriately called "The Winnings."

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Of the practising daily journalists of his time Neil Munro, who died in his beloved Helensburgh on Monday in his 67th year, was easily the most distinguished as a man of letters. The reason is obvious. He lived on two planes with perfect equipoise on each. Every true Celt—and Neil Munro was Celtic to the very core—does that, for he represents an outlook looking far backwards and perfectly expressed in Wordsworth's Highland Reaper, which is very different from that of the Lowland Scot in particular and the workaday world in general. But it is very rare to find in the same man the extraordinary capacity which Neil Munro displayed day in and day out in the very exacting business of journalism, combined with the qualities of imagination and sensitive expression which mark the authentic man of letters, displayed in such masterpieces as "The Lost Pibroch" and "John Splendid."

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While he could turn his hand to anything in daily journalism, from an account of a local flower show to the leader writer's varied pronouncements, Neil Munro reserved the best that was in him, with a fine austerity, in which he returned in spirit to the eternal hills among which he had been born as a deer seeks sanctuary in a "forest," declining to concentrate his talent on the "popular" story expected of the Scot. But there was nothing austere in his meeting with men, for he was a peculiarly lovable man, charming to everybody, generous in his estimates of good work, and wholly unspoilt by the tributes paid to him by the most subtle critics of the literature that lives. It was a fine gesture of Edinburgh, unnoted by most of the obituarists, to celebrate the beginning of the Barrie Chancellor régime by giving him for the second time an LL.D.

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The Headquarters Staff of the Army sent out this year an unusual Christmas card. Outside there was the familar crown surmounted by a lion, so familiar on staff uniforms during the war. Inside there was the reproduction of a contemporary engraving of about 1624, showing "Greate Brittaine Noble and worthy Councell of Warr." This was an old-time Army Council. The members evidently had a good opinion of themselves, for the poem below reads as follows:—

Th' Souldier fights abroad, but these at home,
Teach him to fight well: From these ten Heads come
Those streames of Councell, by which War does stand
As sat, as in the Ocean does this land.

***

An unusual incident occurred at the performance of a very popular and rather "highbrow" play last week, when an elderly white-haired woman seated in the stalls talked loudly and persistently to her companion practically the entire time. Vehement "Hush's" from all parts of the stalls failed so much as to subdue her voice, and even definite requests to be silent only served to interrupt her endless monologue for a few minutes. By the time the end of the play was reached the patience of everyone in her immediate vicinity had given place to unconcealed fury, but it was left to a very well-known novelist, who is still in his early twenties, to administer the rebuke that everyone else longed to give. Turning courteously to the still-babbling interruptor, he said, "Madam, my generation is constantly being attacked for its signal lack of manners, and you, at least, have shown us all exactly what these criticisms are aimed at."

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Tremendous and feverish activity prevails at Burlington House just now in preparation for the Persian Exhibition, of which the private view is fixed for Tuesday week (January 6), and day by day order and beauty grow apace out of what a short fortnight ago seemed hopeless confusion. Then one had to pick one's way delicately through the basement which was scattered haphazard with fragile specimens of early Persian pottery, plates and jugs, that were arriving every hour: some wrapped in fur coats or motor rugs and hugged tenderly in their owners' arms: others swathed in linen bandages as fine as those about an Egyptian mummy.

Only those who have been privileged to peep behind the scenes realise the tremendous work involved in choosing, collecting, receiving, cataloguing, photographing, and, finally, arranging each piece. I was hardly surprised, therefore, when I came across Major A. A. Longden, the very able organiser of the exhibition, partaking of oysters and Chablis at half-past nine the other evening to learn that this constituted his tea, dinner, and supper rolled into one, and that he was returning to Burlington House to go on working with his untiring and enthusiastic staff until midnight, and perhaps later.

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Despite the much-talked-of trade depression, there was little or no sign of it in the shops during the last few days before Christmas, and the retired major who runs the present department at a certain well-known shop told me that they had had a record year, both as regards the value and the number of things sold. Scores of people, for instance, went off with an ingeniously planned leather wallet that holds a passport, train, boat, landing, luggage and dinner tickets, each in its separate, clearly-marked pocket. As companion to it there goes a case to hold moneys of four different countries, with distinguishing pockets of red, blue, black, and brown leather.

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Another original idea, as a variant to the usual cocktail equipment that is so popular a present, is the round tray of jade, amber, or peach coloured clear Swedish glass, with a gracefully designed handle rising in the centre. This is destined for sandwiches and a selection of the many different kinds of foods that we nibble at between the hours of six and seven in the evening with the accompanying cocktail, or the increasingly popular glass of sherry.

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A Salopian of renown, an Etonian, and a sportsman, Viscount Bridgeman will be 66 on Wednesday. Until the dissolution of last year he presided with singular success over "the King's Navee." Few Parliamentarians enjoy so wide a popularity. A sometime Private Secretary to Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, he graduated in public life on the old London School Board and on the London County Council. Five years after entering the House of Commons he became one of the Unionist Whips, and in 1922 Bonar Law made him Home Secretary. He was a First Lord of the Walter Long type, combining firmness and persuasiveness—qualities which go far to secure good administration with a minimum of friction.

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Periodically there appear in the papers all sorts of rumours and forecasts as to some startling innovation in men's dress, and now a woman writes that "A dark secret came out. Definitely there is a new kind of evening waistcoat." She then goes on to describe our old friend the backless white waistcoat, which "only has a little cord instead of the usual buckle," adding that "you can't wear it unless you have a very good figure." As backless waistcoats were invented some years ago specially for a well-known man with very much the reverse of a good figure, I am afraid there is no "dark secret" to reveal. The buckle at the back of both day and evening waistcoats has long been discarded by many young men in favour of two pieces of tape, which tie in a flat bow, thereby obviating the scratches one gets in adjusting the buckle and the bulge it is apt to cause.

NOVELTIES.

FOR THE NEW YEAR.

DESIRABLE REFORMS.

By HAROLD COX.

As we step into the New Year it is worth while considering whether we cannot change some of our old habits where they have proved themselves inconvenient. In particular, we should get rid of many inconveniences if we were to arrange our calendar so that Christmas Day should always come on the same day of the week, and Easter Sunday always on the same day of the month. Next year, unless our calendar is reformed, Christmas Day will fall on a Friday and Boxing Day on a Saturday, which in effect will mean the loss of half a day's holiday to the working-class population. The inconvenience of a varying Easter has long been admitted by everybody, and the League of Nations has taken up the question keenly. In this matter Great Britain leads the way, for an Act was passed in 1928 arranging for a fixed Easter, subject to the assent of the Churches.

There is no real difficulty about reforming the calendar, except the unthinking conservatism of human beings. The first step is to make the last day of the year a non-weekday, so that the year would contain exactly fifty-two weeks, plus what might be called "Old Year's Day." Each year would then regularly start on the same week-day, preferably Sunday. Every fourth year there would have to be an additional non-week-day for Leap Year—it might be called "Leap Day." The next step is slightly to alter the lengths of some of the months so as to get the same number of days in each quarter. January, April, July, and October should each have thirty-one days, and each would begin with a Sunday. The other eight months would have thirty days each. Easter Day could then be fixed for April 8, which is the nearest approach to the mean date of Easter Sunday during the past hundred years. Christmas Day would always come on a Monday, which would be generally popular.

"KEEP TO THE LEFT."

Another desirable reform concerns a question which is occupying a good many minds just now. The Ministry of Transport recently issued the draft of a new Highway Code which opens with an admirable appeal to all citizens to play the game, and so use the King's highway as not to incommode one another. It then lays down as a primary rule of the road for "All vehicles and animals, ridden, led or driven—Keep to the Left." This means that motors, horse carriages, motor bicycles, pedal bicycles, horses, and animals of every kind are all to keep on the left side of the road. Having laid down this rule for what appears to be every class of traffic, the draft code goes on to say that for pedestrians, where there is no footpath, it is better that they should walk on the right of the carriage-way.

This is obviously a concession to conservative prejudice, and it is a confused concession. For the code insists that dogs must be led; but if the pedestrian is to walk to the right side of the road, how is he to lead his dog on the left? Personally, I walk a good deal more than I drive, and again and again I have tested the matter and found I feel safer on the left than on the right side of the road. Many of my friends confirm that opinion. Obviously, also, from the point of view of the convenience of drivers, it is better that the rule of the road should be uniform, with no exceptions—Keep to the Left. Such a uniform rule would also prove extremely convenient in London streets, where pedestrians walking on pavements never seem clear in their minds as to whether they ought to keep to the right or to the left.

THE METRIC SYSTEM.

A third desirable reform which would greatly benefit our trade abroad is the adoption of the metric system of weights and measures. All countries in the world are rapidly succeeding one another in the adoption of the metric system. Nearly the whole of Europe adopted it before the end of last century. In the present century it has been adopted by most of the South American States, and by Japan, Turkey, Persia, and several other countries. Friends of England in foreign countries have recently been pointing out how difficult it is for them to give orders for British goods when prices are quoted in a complicated system of weights and measures with which most countries are quite unfamiliar. The metric system is already legal in England, and it is a pity that our commercial people do not come together and agree with one another to adopt it. At any rate, they might begin by putting it in practice for their foreign business.

It would facilitate this reform, and many other reforms as well, if simultaneously we could adopt a decimal currency. Here the change needed is a very small one. All we have to do to obtain the essential advantages of a decimal currency is slightly to raise the value of the penny so that we may have ten pennies—or "dennies"—to a shilling instead of twelve. The rest would follow automatically. This reform would immensely simplify our business life. The saving in office expenses would alone be considerable. It would mean a very great economy of time in calculating percentages, and much of our industrial life nowadays seems to be based on percentage calculations. In view of the difficulties we now have in pushing our foreign trade, these are reforms of the first importance. Unfortunately, since there is no political pressure for reforms which are only of national interest and have no party value, the politicians are not likely to touch the matter unless a popular movement is organised by manufacturers and business men.

IMPROVED SPELLING.

Finally, we could greatly simplify the work that every child has to do when it is learning to read if we were to adopt a few obvious reforms in our present chaotic spelling. Here again, unthinking conservatism blocks the way. If people would only trouble to look back to our earlier literature they would see that our present spelling is of very modern date, and has, in fact, no historical value. Nor can it in any way be relied upon to give a clue to the derivation of our words; often the present spelling suggests a false derivation.

But the practical point is that by getting rid of useless and misleading letters, such as the final e in have, the b in debt, and the ugh in though, we should not only save the time of our school-teachers and school-children, but we should make English an easier language for the foreigner to learn. Already English is on the way to becoming a world language, and it is worth our while as a country to help that expansion and to spell our language in such a way that foreigners may easily learn how to pronounce English words.

The impression grows in Central Europe that this is a "peace to end peace."—"Cincinnati Times-Star."

In the average English home it is not merely that the boys come first—the girls in most mothers' estimation are nowhere.—Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P.

The only purpose of writing for the theatre is not to express your views; but to speak the language of the theatre in its best, fullest, and most beautiful form.—Osbert Sitwell.

The people are quite capable of being their own theatrical censors. If a play is obscene or blasphemous or offensive to good taste, it will not be a box-office success.—C. B. Cochran.

There is no one of the Liberal party in Parliament to-day, from Mr. Lloyd George downwards, who can give an undertaking that in any given division the party will vote solidly on any single question.—Rt. Hon. Stanley Baldwin, M.P.

DICKINS & JONES

SALE

BEGINS WEDNESDAY

¶ This has been a season of falling prices, and Dickins & Jones' Sale offers represent reductions made on the new price levels. For this reason we urge you to take the fullest advantage of a great shopping opportunity, for NEVER BEFORE HAVE SUCH SUPREME VALUES BEEN OBTAINABLE AT SUCH LOW PRICES. Write for 36 pp. Sale Book.

FELT TOQUE

JS 14. FOLDED TOQUE of double Felt with an attractive bow at side. Sizes: 6¾, 7, 7¼. In black, brown, navy, green, wine and beige. Usual Price 29/6.

SALE PRICE **16/9**

(Ground Floor)

COATEES

JS 13. COATEE in Tinsel Brocade. A model that has a most elegant line, and at the same time gives that extra warmth essential for evening. The sleeves are shaped and the collar has a ruching of self material. In black/gold and black/silver tinsel only. Usual price 49/6.

SALE PRICE **27/6**

Outsizes 5/- extra. (First Floor)

TINY TOTS

JS 247 FROCK and KNICKERS in flowered Shantung. Natural ground with multi-coloured design in blue and geranium colourings, piped in plain colours to tone. Turnings at waist for lengthening. Knickers to match. Sizes: 18 to 24 ins.

SALE PRICE **25/6**

JS 250 WASHING FROCK, with Knickers to match, in Vysilka, with rouleaux on bodice giving coatee effect. Collar and cuffs in white Crepe-de-Chine. Colours: cherry, blue and green. Sizes: 18 to 24 ins.

SALE PRICE **27/6**

(Babywear—Second Floor).

CORSELETTE

A GOSSARD CORSELETTE, boned and reinforced over abdomen. The brassiere top is of Rayon Satin Tricot with firmer skirt of pink Brochè and elastic sections. Sizes: 34-42. Usual price 35/6.

SALE PRICE **21/-**

(Second Floor)

SILK BARGAINS

ALL-SILK CHIFFON VELVET

A fine quality All-Silk Chiffon Velvet—possessing a deep lustrous pile and delightfully supple in texture. Subject to small imperfections, but these are so slight that they can be easily avoided in cutting. Colours include wine, bottle, saxe, royal, red, rose, browns, beige, rust, corail, nil, navy, etc., etc., also ivory and black. Write for Patterns! Width 36/38 ins.

Usually 13/9 and 21/9 per yard. **8/11**

PRINTED CREPE-DE-CHINE

JS 148. All-silk Crepe-de-Chine with distinctive hand-blocked printing, mostly on black grounds. There are various new colour combinations and the multi-colour effects are very beautiful. 38 ins. wide. Patterns Free.

Usually 13/9 and 18/9 per yard. **9/11**

First REMNANT DAY ON FRIDAY next

SEALSKIN SHOES

Usually 50/- SALE PRICE **25/-**

JS 365. These SHOES are London made by a famous manufacturer from the finest Sealskins procurable, and are fully guaranteed. They are obtainable in a new shade of dark brown with insets of tan Glace to tone, or in black with Patent Leather insets. Smart Louis heel. Sizes and half sizes, 3 to 8.

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Theatres continued on page 4.

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1930.

THE YEAR OF AWAKENING.

NOT the most professional of optimists could paint the record of the dying year in colours anything but gloomy. Few tears will be shed over its departure; it will be tolled out rather than rung out. Yet if its darkness has been the darkness that precedes the dawn we may learn to look back on it with respect for having taught us the worst.

So far as events go in the Imperial and international fields, 1930 will be remembered as a year of conferences. Three conferences of first-rate importance have filled many weeks and months of the year: the Five-Power Naval Conference in the winter and spring; the Imperial Conference in the early autumn; and now the Indian Conference. It cannot be said that they were all equally successful. The Naval Conference did achieve something definite, less in limiting the actual navies of the Powers perhaps than in limiting the causes of friction between them. The Imperial Conference was far less fruitful. Opinions may differ on the actual value of what has come to be known as "Mr. BENNETT'S offer," and even as to its usefulness as a point from which to begin bargaining; but that in bolting the door on any discussion of Protection or increased Preferences the Government wantonly lost a big opportunity is now generally agreed. The Imperial Conference, it has to be admitted, was a failure. As for the Indian Conference, we deal with it separately below: its present prospects are unfortunately far from rosy.

India, indeed, and the problem she presents, has shared with Unemployment the double pall of anxiety and depression that has hung over the whole year. From the very beginning of the year, when Congress made its demand for full and immediate independence and initiated its campaign of non-co-operation and civil disobedience, there has not been one moment when Englishmen could sit back and congratulate themselves that affairs in India were mending. The year in India ends as it began, with the clouds still dark and thick. With Unemployment the tale has been the same, except that here the clouds have deepened as the months rolled on. Nor has the record been much more pleasing internationally. Revolutions have been widespread: unrest is prevalent; the economic slump is common to the world and shows no real signs of abating. At home and abroad the old year is dying under a load of almost unequalled depression.

What of 1931? What hope of relief does the coming year hold out to us? It is not an insane optimism, but a steady faith in the unfailing reserves, spiritual and material, of the British people that induces our belief that 1931 will bring us better things. We shall not see those things within the year, perhaps, but the steps that will make their ultimate arrival certain can be taken. 1931 seems destined to be the Year of Awakening. If it is, it will be one of the most memorable and most blessed in our history.

Unemployment is still with us; the Indian problem is still with us; the international outlook remains full of uncertainty and suspicion. But there is unmistakably stirring in the British people—never quick to action, but remorseless in pursuit once the path has been taken—a new sense of emergency and a new will to grapple with it. There is a growing feeling that for this country it is Now or Never, and a growing determination that it shall be Now. The old will to win is reasserting itself after twelve years of disillusion and doubt. In a dozen different ways this is apparent, and in none more significantly than in the impatient contempt which is everywhere manifesting itself for old political shams and shibboleths and in the effort to replace them with construction and reality. In politics, in industry, in the international field a great opportunity awaits the British people to reassert their leadership, moral and material, in the world. To do it will require an effort unprecedented since the great effort of the war. It will need courage, sacrifice and co-operation in strong and equal proportions. The courage we know is there. The will to sacrifice is there. Can the British nation at this crisis in its destiny achieve the unity of directed effort essential to a new renaissance?

INDIAN REALITIES.

IT is plain beyond doubt that the Round Table Conference is at the very crisis of its fate. It has not yet failed, but it has reached deadlock, and unless this deadlock can be resolved within the next few days it seems almost inevitable that failure will follow. From every point of view breakdown would be a calamity, yet from the first it has never been improbable. In every department but one the proceedings have been marked by considerable success, but that one department holds the key to the Indian problem. Britain and India can agree upon the form of constitution the new India shall have; they can agree upon Federalism, upon status, upon the powers and responsibilities of the British executive; but agreement on these principles is of exactly no value if the Indians cannot agree among themselves.

In plain fact, the Conference is in grave danger of shipwreck on the age-old rock of Hindu-Moslem antagonism. The Moslem minority distrusts the Hindu majority—as Lord MESTON reminds us elsewhere on this page, the distrust is deep-rooted in history and psychology—and while both parties can agree on the need of agreement, when it comes to the details by which agreement is to be made possible they fail to reach an understanding. There is no cause here for anything but profound disappointment, but at the same time it is only fair to recall that the Hindu-Moslem difficulty was a permanent and known factor in the situation, and that no matter what expressions of sentiment and good will were made on both the Indian and the British sides, nor how sincere soever these might be, the Conference was certain in the ultimate resort to come up flat against realities.

What those realities are has been depressingly shown in the last few days. Even while the delegates here were busy with admirable but vague generalisations on the need of brotherhood the Governor of the Punjab narrowly escaped assassination. The VICEROY, than whom no British administrator in the whole of British-Indian history has shown more consistent patience and restraint, has been compelled to re-institute the Ordinances against the Press and non-payment of taxes. The temper of India remains distinctly ugly. If the Conference should break up without agreement the Indian delegates will go back to find Congress, never ready to recognise the proceedings at St. James's, as implacable and extremist as ever, and with the added prestige of being able to turn to the empty-handed moderates with a taunting "We told you so." The prospect is far from bright, and is certainly in no way relieved by the fact that what has come to pass was probably unavoidable.

UNEMPLOYMENT.

MR. LLOYD GEORGE—who is consistent, if in nothing else, in the vigour and frequency with which he flays his political allies—has turned on the Government again with a well-merited denunciation of its futility. With unemployment figures tending beyond 2,300,000, the Cabinet still sits with folded hands. But signs are not wanting that not merely Liberal goadings, but unrest among its own followers, are likely before long to jolt it, however reluctantly, into action. Electoral reform is evidently not to be enough to appease Mr. LLOYD GEORGE and his party. They are to continue to press unremittingly for a more energetic tackling of the demon of depression, and there seems more than a possibility that they may succeed.

Among the Labour rank and file there is a growing feeling that the Socialist hold on the country will be lost irretrievably unless something swift and spectacular is done to grapple with unemployment. So far the Government has no message of hope whatever for the million and a quarter unemployed who have been added to the roll in the past twelve months. There is an increasing demand that this lamentable state of affairs shall be reversed, and, in desperation, Socialists are turning to the Liberal schemes as offering a rough but ready plan of campaign. Why not, runs the argument, spend even a lot of money on creating a little work than on continuing to subsidise idleness? The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER and others of his colleagues no doubt consider the Liberal proposals uneconomic. But if the price of continuance in office is the adoption of a slice of the Liberal unemployment plans, the Government is likely to swallow hard and go ahead.

LORD MELCHETT.

BY the death of Lord MELCHETT at the very height of his powers and influence Britain has been deprived of a great industrial leader at a moment when she can ill afford the loss. At a crisis of the country's economic history, with Labour suspicious, and Capital in too many instances slow to learn the lessons of a new industrial epoch, Lord MELCHETT brought to the task of reorganisation a mind at once acute in detail, powerful and imaginative in grasp, and energetic in application. He was one of the pioneers of rationalisation in the land, and his vision in the critical years ahead would have been of incalculable value to the country.

Above all things a realist, his mind saw through the shams and sentimentalities of life, and was never afraid to face the facts. Knowing that industrial strife would be the ruin of his country's prosperity, he set himself with as much assiduity to rationalise the relations between masters and men as he had to rationalise the chemical and anthracite industries. As a politician, the same realistic mind seldom failed to make its mark in debate, while his organising genius made him one of the best Ministers of Health at a time when organisation and realism were above all needed. Nor must his sagacity as a lover and patron of the arts be overlooked. Lord MELCHETT was a man whose loss is likely to be felt not less but increasingly as the years go by.

NOW WE MUST SAVE.

Now that Christmas is over and the season of lavish spending is at an end, it is perhaps fitting that we should turn our thoughts to thrift. At the Headmasters' Conference a few days ago Major-General SEELY, who is chairman of the National Savings Committee, gave some extraordinarily interesting, and in these hard times somewhat astonishing results of the movement's work. Early in the New Year, he told his audience, the thousand millionth Savings Certificate will have been issued, and arrangements are being made whereby it will be presented to the KING at a gathering, to be presided over by the PRINCE OF WALES, which is being specially convened to celebrate the occasion.

Day by day and week by week these certificates are being sold, and the total sum at present invested in this way amounts to no less than £500,000,000. But this is not the end, for the habit once inculcated of putting money away where it is secure against depreciation, earns a good rate of interest and can easily and quickly be withdrawn should the necessity arise, has proved attractive to vast numbers of people who never saved before, so that other channels for the same purpose such as the Post Office and Trustee Savings Banks have become more widely popularised. Surely these facts provide a fairly complete answer to the pessimists who tell us that we are becoming a nation of spendthrifts, and that the poorer classes will no longer trouble to put by against old age or a rainy day.

ONLY A GUESS.

FROM time immemorial there have been people going about the world whose self-imposed mission in life appears to be to strike terror into the hearts of others. They foretell national downfall and universal disintegration. They promise us that the times we have been through are nothing to the times that are coming. It is remarkable that these prophets of gloom are frequently able to sustain the burden of their own prophecies without loss of cheerfulness; perhaps they do not mean us to take them too seriously. But they are always ready with a piece of bad news. One of the most notorious of these people was the Fat Boy in Pickwick, who, himself overburdened with mountains of flesh, took a delight in making the flesh of others creep.

Sir JAMES JEANS, the famous scientist who has been broadcasting his views of the universe to the British public, must now take his place among the flesh-creepers, for it is his opinion that as soon as the universe comes into being it starts swelling out in size, and will continue to do so until, presumably, it bursts. However, we may draw some comfort from the information that the human race can hardly expect to understand what it all means, and that though some day, perhaps, we shall know, "at present we can only guess."

RESOLUTIONS.

IT is the season of good resolutions, and however much experience may protest that they are rarely, if ever, kept, optimism persists in promising early rising and all the other virtues.

In what a pickle thou hast left us!

So with BURNS we might apostrophise the retiring year; we still nurse the inviolable hope of better luck with the New. If only inanimate objects would make good resolutions! If only the London fog, for instance, would decide to winter in the Sahara! If only we could look forward to a twelvemonth in which the golf ball kept out of the bunker and the golf club never permitted itself to slice! Umbrellas resolved never to turn inside out; collar-studs determined not to roll under the dressing-table; white ties resisting the temptation to form into a clove hitch—what a blissful thought! And only the most cynical will suggest that those other inanimate objects, the politicians, should make up their minds to indulge in no more legislation.

WHY INDIA IS NOT A NATION

HINDU - MOSLEM ANTAGONISM.

A THOUSAND YEARS' FEUD.

WILL IT WRECK THE CONFERENCE?

By Lord Meston.

Gratifying beyond all expectation, both in its pace and in its harmony, has been the work of the Round Table Conference thus far. It has now reached a critical turning. There has been, to all appearance, virtual accord on two cardinal principles, federation and Dominion status. The way has been cleared (unless the reviving insanity of extremism blocks it) for a Constitution which will in time establish a United States of India, with the same responsibilities and powers as are enjoyed by any of the other sister nations of the British Commonwealth. How this unprecedented union of States and Provinces is to function, and how it will carry its duties and powers, are matters for study and experiment, test and trial.

Enthusiasts would start the experiment to-morrow:

> On such a full sea are we now afloat;
> And we must take the current when it serves,
> Or lose our ventures.

By so many centuries, they may feel, have we already accelerated the ordinary evolution of free institutions in India that to skip a generation or two now makes no matter. But wiser heads hold back; they see practical difficulties which must be removed before a paper Constitution becomes a workable machine.

A Condition Precedent.

It is here that we come to the turning. Whatever may be the meaning of Dominion status to the jurist, it involves at least some sort of national unity; so does the idea of federation. In both cases the structure is based upon the foundation of the will of the people, expressed (so far as our practice and experience go) through the majority of its representatives in Parliament. If there exists a substantial section of the people who will not accept the decisions of that majority in the ordinary affairs of life, then national unity, in our sense of the words, has not yet been reached.

The problem is by no means new to us. In Canada it was once acute; it is still fresh in South Africa and Ireland. But, although the Catholics and the Protestants in the Irish Free State may not always love each other, they are not kept in separate political compartments. And in South Africa, though Britons and Boers have their differences, they fight their battles on equal terms at the polls and in their Parliaments. In India, however, the religious and racial difficulty is far more serious. For the last twenty-five years the Moslems in British India (sixty millions of them) have been making it plain that, unless they are protected by specific safeguards, they will not accept the domination of the Hindu majority (165 million).

Mr. Jinnah's Fourteen Points.

Men of good will and discernment on both sides have long realised how grave is this impediment to India's progress, and have striven for compromise. The Round Table offered them a unique opportunity, and the rosy atmosphere in which it opened was full of hope. That the stricter Mahomedan delegates were armed with certain claims and conditions was known; indeed, Mr. Jinnah, one of the least bigoted of Moslems, had emulated the late President Wilson by reducing them to Fourteen Points. There was general confidence, however, in the possibility of a settlement, and the ground was carefully prepared for friendly discussion. So long as generalisations were being agreed, the Hindu and Mahomedan delegates held together; but when it came to the issue of sinking their differences in a common political mould, agreement ceased and something like an impasse has ensued.

The Moslem Demands.

What, it will be asked, are those differences? The answer, so far as political forms are concerned, might summarise them thus. In the first place, the Mahomedans insist on the right, which they now possess, of electing their own representatives instead of voting in a general electorate. Second, they claim at least one-third of the seats in the Central Legislature, and "adequate and effective representation" in the provincial legislatures, amounting apparently to an actual majority in Bengal and the Punjab. Third, no Cabinet, whether Central or provincial, shall contain fewer than one Moslem in every three Ministers. Fourth, Sind, a predominantly Mahomedan area, must be separated from Bombay, a dominantly Hindu province. Fifth, the new Constitution must contain special provision for giving Moslems "an adequate share" in all the services of the State and local bodies, as well as safeguards for their religion and culture.

An Impasse.

To all these five stipulations the orthodox Hindus object; and the drafting of an agreed Constitution is thus at a standstill. No effort has been spared to bring the parties together. The Aga Khan's extensive knowledge of men and affairs has been strenuously exercised; two lady delegates have recently added their exotic eloquence; and there are plenty of willing intermediaries among British statesmen. Even the kindly and hospitable intervention of the Prime Minister appears to have failed; and the outlook is unquestionably anxious. In the Mahomedan delegations there is said to be growing restlessness at the pressure which is being put upon them; while, on the other side, little good is being done by threats of appeal to the League of Nations and bloodcurdling tales of what will happen in India if the negotiations break down.

"Divide and Rule."

It is a cherished doctrine with the critics of British administration, both at home and abroad, that we govern India on the principle of "Divide and Rule," and that the Hindu-Moslem tension has been deliberately fostered by us for our own ends. To that lie it is possible, after recent events, that honest men may no longer find themselves able to give currency. The truth is that, generation after generation, the British official in India has spent himself in efforts for peace. He has patched up many a truce, averted many a conflict; but he has never achieved permanent reconciliation. Lord Irwin tried his hand at it, but with no more success than his predecessors or lieutenants. His Majesty's Ministers are now having the same experience. The tea party at Chequers is only the latest, but far from the last, of a long series of earnest endeavours to establish concord between two great communities which destiny has condemned to live together as uncongenial neighbours.

A Thousand Years' Feud.

The trouble is rooted in the history of a thousand years. A century before our Norman Conquest, the Sultan of Ghazni used to march down from Afghanistan to the Ganges valley, for seventeen consecutive winters, kill his tens of thousands, collect his millions of treasure and his droves of Hindu slave-prisoners, and return home to enjoy the summer among his native hills. This was the first that India saw of the sword of Islam, the first scene in a tremendous drama of conquest and human misery, which has left memories seared into the Hindu mind. When the wheel of Fate swung full circle round, and the Imperial power of the Moguls fell, another drama was enacted, the long, relentless economic pressure under which the Moslems have been enfeebled by the Hindus and outpaced in the race of life. Here also memories are vivid and bitter.

Enlightened men are not lacking who would gladly drop all those memories and place national unison before communal distrust. But among the masses passion may at any moment run high and the old animosities revive and the reasoning of their leaders be swept away. Moslem India as a whole believes that Hinduism means to crush it into insignificance as a political power; hence its demands for safeguards and special recognition. Hinduism as a whole believes that the new world on which it is entering will never be safe for it while Islam enjoys a privileged position; for the future India which it envisages is an India based on the ancient principles of Hindu life, after absorbing whatever it finds of value in the foreign influences either of Islam or of Europe, and eliminating all the rest.

Is It Shipwreck?

The dilemma at the moment seems complete. It goes far beyond the narrow questions of political form which are now in dispute, and reaches deep into the psychology and economics of the people. Its permanent solution may have to await the growth of that civic sense of unselfish co-operation which education alone can nourish. But what is to be done in the meantime? If the Conference strikes this rock of Hindu-Moslem antagonism, must it shipwreck altogether? Surely we should do better to ask ourselves whether the nostrums of what we conceive to be political perfection are really essential to India's welfare or progress.

Take communal electorates, for example. The cry that they are undemocratic is a mere caption. It has never been contended that they accord with pure democratic theory; but is India ripe for the pure theory which several European countries to-day are putting into cold storage? So with the other safeguards which the Moslems demand; either such concessions will have to be made as will allay their fears, or India's full emancipation must wait until both sides see their duty more clearly.

This may seem a lame and cynical conclusion. It is not so meant. We all wish the Conference well; we hope to see it reach agreements which will justify Parliament in moving boldly towards the goal adopted and proclaimed thirteen years ago. But the oratory which we admire, and the friendship which we welcome, are only preludes to the hard and heavy tasks that yet lie before India in dislodging the inherent handicaps to an ordered freedom—tasks in which most of us are convinced that British co-operation will continue to be necessary.

Two Poems:

A Star Carol.

By KATHLEEN LEE.

The fiery arches of the sky
With glory are bedight;
A fair Star, a strange Star,
Is shining there to-night:
God Who is come to earth from Heaven
Hath raised His standard bright.

Kings have cast down their mighty crowns,
And doffed their majesty,
Before the Babe Whose herald Star
Proclaims His deity:
Since all who see Him fain would share
Such sweet humility.

May we who too behold the Star,
With burning love aglow,
Open our hearts to that pure light
And Magian wisdom know—
Who would be truly happy must
For Love's sake love bestow.

Away to the Sea.

By PERCY RIPLEY.

Now every lad has a love of the sea
And the salty winds that blow,
And when the blood of youth runs hot
'Tis just as like as it is not
That away to the sea he'll go,
That away to the sea he'll go.

But when the moon of age dips down
And his youth is far away,
There is no wind upon the sea
As strong as the wind of memory,
And away from the sea he'll go,
And away from the sea he'll go.

Green havens and churches trim,
The singing of birds near dark,
These are the things that mostly stir
The heart of the homeward mariner
When the waves of life beat slow,
When the waves of life beat slow,

DISARMAMENT.

WHAT WILL EUROPE DO?

THE DRAFT CONVENTION AND ITS POSSIBILITIES.

AN IMAGINARY CASE.

By VISCOUNT CECIL.

The Preparatory Disarmament Commission at Geneva finished its labours at the beginning of this month. Its business was to prepare for the meeting of a general Disarmament Conference, and it did so by drawing up a skeleton disarmament treaty without figures. The agenda of the Conference will accordingly be to write into this draft the figures necessary to convert it into an operative Disarmament Treaty. The date for the meeting of the Conference will be fixed by the Council of the League in January, and according to all appearance it will be attended by all the States Members of the League, as well as by the United States of America, Russia, and Turkey. It is understood that the meeting will be at Geneva and not later than the early part of 1932, and it will be by far the most important gathering of its kind that has ever taken place.

It is too early yet to say what are the prospects of its success. But one thing is assured. Within the limits of the Draft Convention just drawn up practically any degree of disarmament can be included.

"AQUITANIA'S" ARMY.

Let me make that good by an illustration, and to avoid misunderstanding I will take an imaginary case. Aquitania has an army actually with the colours of 500,000 men, which costs her £40,000,000 a year, of which £5,000,000 is spent on weapons and engines of war. The 500,000 men consists of 100,000 professional soldiers and the rest conscripts with an eighteen months' period of service.

Under the Convention it will be possible to reduce the numbers to, say, 200,000, of which not more than 50,000 may be professionals. The officers would also be proportionately limited. It follows that unless the professional soldiers are further reduced the conscripts cannot exceed 150,000. We hear a good deal about the importance of limiting trained reserves, that is, the men who have been through their training with the colours and have returned to civil life. It is obvious that if you limit the men with the colours you limit the trained reserves; and, indeed, that is the only way in which the latter can be limited. If, therefore, Aquitania's 400,000 conscripts are cut down to 150,000 her trained reserves are limited in the same proportion if the period of service remains the same. If that, too, is diminished the numbers passing through the army will evidently be greater, but they will be less efficient, particularly for aggression—and that is the thing which matters from the peace point of view.

REDUCTION OF ESTIMATES.

Further, the military budget of Aquitania may be reduced under the Geneva proposals. If her present army costs her £40,000,000, an army of two-fifths the size ought not to cost more than £16,000,000, or, allowing for possible rise in pay etc., a little more. We might hope, therefore that she would agree not to spend more, at the most, than £20,000,000, of which £2,500,000 would be for weapons and munitions.

It is said that this will not be effective to limit materials. Why not? Suppose our military estimates were cut in half in this way, does anyone suppose that our armament would be unaffected? If it is meant that a country determined to disregard its treaty obligations could conceal its real expenditure, that is possible. But it is equally true of any conceivable disarmament provision.

WAR IN THE AIR.

In the air service I was not able to secure budgetary limitation, and so far we shall have to rely on direct limitation of the number and power of aircraft—though I hope this may be put right later on. Is it not clear that such a direct limitation is at least as easy to evade? Aircraft can be kept in pieces, and no amount of international inspection could discover them, even if such inspection were agreed to, which it certainly would not be.

One criticism may be truly made. Budgetary limitation does not touch existing stocks. But at present the various countries are not prepared to divulge to the world what their stocks are. The Dutch tried to secure not the limitation, but the publicity of such stocks. They failed. I regret it, but so it was, and if you cannot get publicity *a fortiori*, you will not get limitation of existing stocks. Nor is it quite as important as it sounds. The science of armament happily, or unhappily, is developing rapidly, and on the other hand the nations are poor. They will not readily lock up large sums of money in armaments which may easily be obsolete in five or ten years' time.

POSSIBLE NAVAL REDUCTIONS.

So much for the Army. In some respects more drastic provisions are foreseen in the Convention for the Navy and subject to the one criticism I have made for the Air Force. In the supposed case of Aquitania, therefore, it would be possible to cut down to any extent the numbers and period of service of her soldiers, together with the total amount to be spent on her army and, in particular, on its weapons and engines of war. The number and size of her warships in each class could be limited, together with the calibre of the guns mounted therein, and the numbers of her sailors, and the amount of the naval budget. So, too, her airmen and aircraft can be restricted, and, let us hope, eventually the amount of money to be spent on them.

A PERMANENT DISARMAMENT COMMISSION.

No doubt there remains the possibility of evasion, and to meet this a Permanent Disarmament Commission is to be created at Geneva, whose duty it will be to watch over the progress of disarmament and report at least once a year how the Treaty is being carried out. That is not a perfect precaution. But I believe its actual, and still more its moral, effect will be considerable.

Those are the facts, and if anyone doubts them I venture to refer to the Parliamentary Paper on the subject, which, I understand, is on the point of being published. Will there not, then, be a great opportunity for disarmament when the Conference meets? Surely, there will; and the use which is made of that opportunity depends upon the nations and their Governments.

QUELLING THE BURMA RISING.

ENGLISH AND INDIAN TROOPS SENT TO AREA OF DISTURBANCES.

1,000 REBELS HIDDEN IN THE DEPTHS OF JUNGLE.

OVER 100 CASUALTIES INFLICTED BY GOVERNMENT FORCES.

Successful measures have been taken by the authorities in Burma to quell the rebel outbreaks.

Detachments of the East Kent Regiment, of Punjabis, and of Burma Rifles have been despatched to the area of the disturbances—a precautionary measure to prevent the spread of disaffection.

Minor raiding operations were reported yesterday to have been carried out by the rebels, but the police and troops appear to have the situation in hand.

The rebels, who are estimated to be 1,000 strong, have their headquarters in the forest and jungle, which renders operations against them very difficult.

They are known to have suffered considerable losses, their casualties being variously estimated at 100, 150, and 200.

RAIDS BY REBELS.

BUNGALOWS BURNED AND GUNS LOOTED.

RANGOON, Saturday.

The latest official report from Tharrawaddy, where rioting has been taking place for several days, is more satisfactory.

Captain Rust, who was slightly wounded yesterday in an encounter with the insurgents, to-day succeeded, with the aid of reinforcements, in recovering the body of Mr. Fields-Clarke, who was murdered in a bungalow at Weywa. The body was brought this morning to Tharrawaddy for the funeral.

In one area the rebels were seen to be busy removing their dead and wounded. No actual engagements between the police and the rebels have been reported during the last twenty-four hours, but isolated rebel gangs have raided a few more villages, looted some guns, burned two forest bungalows, and destroyed survey instruments.

The Punjabis and the Buffs reached Tharrawaddy yesterday. One party was sent this morning to engage the rebels.

In the Insein district, officials who have returned from the disturbed area report considerable success. They met with no serious opposition, and captured seventeen prisoners, their only casualty being a Burmese police inspector, who was slightly wounded.

In this district officials have already established a controlling post in a village to the North-East of Okkan. They propose to establish a second post in another village.

Reassuring the People.

Detachments of Punjabis have been sent to Minhla and Zigon to reassure the people and to prevent the disaffection from spreading. It was decided last night to send a battalion of the Burma Rifles from Maymyo to the disturbed area.

It is unofficially reported that the rebels, whose activities have been confined to the Tharrawaddy district, number about 1,000. although it is difficult to estimate the strength. Most of them are wearing a uniform consisting of blue pyjamas and shirt with the white Burmese headdress. They carry amulets and charms supposed to secure immunity from bullets and giving them strength in flight.

They are armed and possess plenty of ammunition which it appears, they secured by looting villages and headmen's houses. Their preparations must have been going on for some time past.

Forest Headquarters.

A curious feature of the outbreak is that the rebels do not appear to have any grievances. They have been keen in securing arms and ammunition rather than money. Their knowledge of local topography and the selection of forest fastnesses as their headquarters enables the main body to elude capture and carry out their raiding activities.

An unconfirmed report estimates the rebels' casualties to be between 100 and 150. It is difficult to obtain a reliable figure, as, wherever possible, they carry away their dead and wounded. So far as is known at present, over fifty have been arrested.—Reuter.

RANGOON, Saturday.

The Government have issued a communiqué indicating that the situation at Tharrawaddy has improved. The calling up of reinforcements was decided upon in order to prevent disaffection spreading.

Isolated outrages continue in a number of villages, the object of the rebels being to steal firearms.—Central News.

MASTER MIND OF REVOLT.

MYSTERY MAN OF MILITARY SKILL.

RANGOON, Saturday.

The rebels, who number about 1,000, are strongly entrenched in almost impenetrable jungle, where they defy the Government troops. Their leader is a man of considerable military training, but his identity is unknown.

The master brain behind the revolt directs the operations from headquarters in a lonely village deep in the heart of the forest near Tharrawaddy.

It is expected that to-morrow or on Monday a drive against the rebels will be made in this neighbourhood by Government troops, who have been heavily reinforced.

It is learned that the rebels have suffered 200 casualties in recent fighting. Malarial conditions are greatly hampering the troops. —Exchange.

CRITICAL DAYS FOR INDIA.

CONFERENCE NEARING DECISIVE STAGE.

The next week or ten days should see a decisive stage reached in the protracted proceedings of the Round Table Conference on India, which was inaugurated by the King on November 12.

In well-informed circles it is believed that the end of the present Conference is in sight, even if no definite agreement is reached on certain vital issues. It is understood that a number of the delegates are anxious to return to India in the near future to attend to their affairs there, and that they would not regard the postponement of the Conference for a time as unwelcome. Some of them have provisionally booked their passages homeward for on or about January 22. The expectation is that, in any event, proceedings in London will conclude by second or third week of January. An adjournment would furnish a respite for the further consideration of the most disputatious problems.

The Christmas holiday of the Conference concludes to-morrow, when most of the delegates will assemble at St James's Palace to prepare for the plenary Conference, which has been provisionally fixed for Tuesday. Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, who will preside, returns this evening from Chequers. Yesterday he received Mr Wedgwood-Benn, Secretary for India and a number of high officials, for the purpose of reviewing the work already done and considering what further means could be taken by the Government to assist the Conference to a successful conclusion.

The King and Queen are giving an afternoon party to the Indian delegates on January 12 at Buckingham Palace, when their Majesties will come specially from Sandringham for the day to meet their guests.

PRINCE GEORGE INJURED.

SHOULDER DISLOCATED WHILE HUNTING.

Prince George, when out with the Belvoir Hounds yesterday, was thrown while galloping across a field. He fell heavily, and was taken to Melton War Memorial Hospital and examined under X-ray.

The mishap occurred almost at the outset of the first hunt from Hose Thorns. Prince George's horse put a foot in a ditch full of water. The animal turned a somersault, and Prince George was thrown heavily on to his shoulder.

The Prince of Wales, who was only a short distance away, went to his brother's assistance. Having ascertained that the injury was not of a serious nature, he resumed the hunt.

Prince George was taken to hospital in a motor-car, and was examined by Dr. M. Dixon and Dr. Manson, having previously had an anæsthetic administered. Although severely shaken and bruised, he was quite cheerful. An hour later Prince George left for Burrough Court, the residence of Viscount and Viscountess Furness.

It was learned later that Prince George had dislocated his shoulder. The dislocation was reset under an anæsthetic by Dr. Montague Dixon, one of the honorary surgeons of the hospital. Afterwards Dr. Dixon accompanied the Prince to Burrough Court, where he was put to bed. His condition is stated to be quite satisfactory.

It is expected that the Prince of Wales and Prince George will leave Burrough Court to-day.

Mr. Phillips, of Melton Mowbray, the well-known trainer of hunters, who a few seasons ago was selected to pilot the King of Spain's two daughters on the occasion of their hunting visit to Leicestershire, was a witness of the accident. He said that the hounds had found a fox at Hose Thorns and forced him away towards the canal.

"The next field was a ridge and furrow one, and the furrows were all full of water, In the centre of the field was a small ditch about 2 ft. deep, which was indisguishable from the furrows, it being full of water. Prince George's horse put its foot into it and turned a complete somersault, throwing the rider on to his left shoulder.

"The Prince of Wales was at the time riding close beside his brother, and he at once pulled up and dismounted. He ascertained that the injuries were not of a serious nature before deciding to go on with the sport. Very few of the followers appeared to have been cognisant of the accident. The Prince of Wales asked me to look after his brother, and then rode at the tail of the field, the stoppage having caused him to miss the first run.

"I strapped the Prince's arm up with a stirrup leather. He appeared to be in great pain at first, but soon became easier, and asked for a cigarette. Having smoked this, he walked across the field to the road against the covert where a fox had been found. Meanwhile a motor-car had been obtained, and in this the Prince was taken away."

THE LESS COAL STATUTE.

200 MORE MINERS GIVEN NOTICE.

EFFECT OF QUOTA SYSTEM.

Notices have been issued to two hundred men employed by the Choppeinton Collieries, Limited, Northumberland. In a letter accompanying the notices, the firm states:—

"Owing to the latest Coal Mines Act our output of coal, in accordance with the quota system, has been reduced by 25 per cent.—120,000 tons per annum less than we raised in 1929 and 1930. In consequence we are obliged to tender you notice.

"We view our enforced action with the utmost regret, the more so in view of the fact that it was brought about by an Act of Parliament placed on the Statute Book by those who, more or less, pretend to have the interests of the workers of this country at heart."

The owners added that their pits have worked full time since November, 1927. They are still in a position to sell every ton of coal they produce.

APPEAL TO PRIME MINISTER.

A general reduction of coal output, and consequently of employment, is resulting from the output control scheme of the new Coal Mines Act. In order to check over-production and consequential price-cutting, powers were secured under the statute to operate a marketing scheme on a national scale. For each coalfield the tonnage which may be commercially disposed of is assigned, and the first allocations, which take effect with the New Year, involve a general limitation of output.

In the Barnsley area 2,000 miners have been given notice, and on their behalf the Mayor of Barnsley appealed to the Prime Minister. A reply was received yesterday, stating that Mr. MacDonald, who had been in communication with the Secretary for Mines, trusted that "a satisfactory settlement will soon be reached under the machinery provided in the Act."

EARLY ELECTION PROSPECTS.

GOVERNMENT WEARY OF HUMILIATIONS.

By OUR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT.

Most of the Government will be glad to see the last of 1930, for it has been a year of many humiliations for them. They have been in office, but not in power, and they have only been able to retain their portfolios by the contemptuous complaisance of Mr. Lloyd George, who stigmatises them as plunderers and blunderers, but prefers them as, from his point of view, the less offensive of two alternatives

I am told that they are asking themselves whether it is worth while to groan and sweat to no purpose in such hampering circumstances, or whether it would not be better to anticipate the inevitable by going to the country. They admit, quite frankly, that they expect to lose a considerable number of seats, but they think that they will lose fewer at the present time when the reorganisation of the Conservative Party is incomplete than later on when the opposition attack will be fully marshalled.

It is quite on the cards, therefore, that when Parliament meets again it will be asked to expedite the despatch of necessary business in preparation for a dissolution during the following month.

OUTWITTING THE BOOT-LEGGER.

NEW OFFICIAL MOVE.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

WASHINGTON, Saturday.

With the object of eliminating commercial alcohol from the sources of supply available for "bootleggers," the authorities at Washington to-day arranged for the distribution of two new denaturants called alcotate and aldehol.

It has been found that the skilled chemists of the bootlegging industry, now one of the largest in the United States, have been able to extract poisons from the denaturants hitherto used officially, and to use the denaturants for the manufacture of all sorts of alcholic products which they label and sell as "best Scotch," "Plymouth gin," "West Indian rum," etc.

The new denaturants, which come into use on New Year's Day, are non-poisonous, but both are described as by-products of gasoline with sulphur mixtures and a large army of other organic substances which smell so horribly and taste so villainously that anybody drinking them becomes immediately sick.

Wood alcohol in automobile anti-freezing mixtures the drinking of which increased with the Christmas season and resulted in scores of deaths, will be entirely displaced by new denaturants. The bootleggers' reply to the latest move of the "dry" bureau is that their chemists can eliminate the noxious extracts from the new compounds by redistillation. They say also that they are now themselves producing very fine spirits, with cheap corn sugar as the basic ingredient.

Bootleg liquor from abroad is less than half of one per cent. of the liquor sold here as "real imported."

THRONE OF FRANCE.

PRETENDER "KNOCKING AT THE DOOR."

PARIS, Saturday.

"The Pretender to the French Throne is knocking at the door of France."

This striking phrase appears to-day in a letter to the Press from the Duc de Guise and M. Charles Benoist, a former Ambassador, who was the tutor of the Count of Paris, eldest son of the Duke.

The Duke declares in the letter that there is no stability under the Republican régime. A hereditary monarchy alone can give security, order, and prosperity.

He concludes: "Tell the French that the repository of the Royal prerogative which made France is still there; that he is knocking at the door of his country; and that he is ready to avail himself of all the glorious and difficult tasks of the public weal, social well-being, and order and peace, which is the honour and grandeur of our monarchy since ten centuries old."

The letter is signed "Jean, in Exile," and is dated December 23, 1930.—Reuter.

DUKE OF GLOUCESTER HOME.

The Duke of Gloucester arrived at Victoria at 3.30 yesterday after his trip to Abyssinia. The Duke had travelled from Folkestone in a special Pullman compartment attached to the ordinary boat train. There were very few people at Victoria when he arrived. He was met by his equerry, Captain Howard Kerr, and drove away in a motor-car to Buckingham Palace.

The Duke left England in October to attend the coronation of the Emperor of Abyssinia. On the return journey he left a P. and O. liner at Marseilles yesterday, and travelled to Boulogne, where he boarded the Channel steamer Maid of Orleans. It is expected he will proceed to Sandringham to-day.

NOTTS CRICKET CAPTAINCY.

MR. CARR'S STATEMENT TO "SUNDAY TIMES."

STILL IN THE DARK

NO INTENTION OF RESIGNING.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

NOTTINGHAM, Saturday.

The position of Mr. A. W. Carr in regard to the captaincy, and also his membership of the Notts cricket team, was clearly set out in an interview which he gave the SUNDAY TIMES.

A statement had been issued that he had been asked to resign the captaincy of the team and that he had refused to do so.

"That," said Mr. Carr, "correctly puts the position in a nutshell. When I came out of hospital I heard a number of rumours concerning myself and the captaincy of the Notts team. One rumour was that I was not going to be wanted next summer. I naturally was anxious to find out something about the rumour, and I discovered there was something in it. The next I heard was that a committee had been formed to deal with the matter, but though that has been done, I am still in the dark.

"Officially I have not heard anything whatever concerning my position as captain of the team next year, but I am bound to say that from what I have heard unofficially, I think the committee intend to find another captain for next year."

READY TO CARRY ON.

"Would you carry on as a member of the team if the committee did change the captain?" he was asked. "Rather, I would," was the prompt reply.

"But I am not going to resign the captaincy," he stated. "What would the public think of me if I resigned the captaincy at this juncture, when Notts has lost Whysall and other members of the team? Why, they would regard me as a deserter of a sinking ship. No, I cannot see myself doing that sort of thing.

"But what annoys me so much is that all this has been going on behind my back. If the committee had come to me in a straightforward way and stated their views, I would have probably fallen in right away with their desires, were it in the interests of the county cricket."

Mr. Carr said that if Notts did not want him as a member of the team he would be ready to play for anyone else who might desire his services, and in this connection he stated that he was qualified by birth to play for Surrey.

Mr. Carr, who was born in 1894 at Mickleham, Surrey, first appeared for Notts in the County Cricket Championship in 1910. He led the English team in four Test matches in 1926 and before he was superseded in the last Test match, much to the consternation of cricket circles, by Chapman.

A POPULAR SKIPPER.

No statement was forthcoming from any member of the committee of the Notts club, and it is understood the matter has now been left in abeyance for further consideration.

The situation has occasioned considerable feeling locally which is not favourable to the committee. Mr. Carr enjoys great popularity both among his co-players and the cricketing public.

TEST THRILLS.

ENGLAND BEATEN AT JOHANNESBURG.

The glorious uncertainties of cricket were seldom better illustrated than in the Test match between South Africa and England, which ended at Johannesburg, yesterday, in the unexpected defeat of the Englishmen by 28 runs. The concluding stages of play provided an enthusiastic crowd with plenty of thrills.

Neither eleven was at full strength, but when the South Africans were dismissed in their first innings for 126 runs in response to the Englishmen's 193 the lead of the M.C.C. seemed enough to make things fairly safe for the tourists. The latter, however, fairly rose to the occasion in their second innings, which reached 306, and England was left with 240 runs to make for victory. It was, appropriately, E. P. Nupen, the South African captain, who made the task impossible.

The largest crowd that has ever cheered a South African Test victory cheered Nupen, says Reuter's correspondent, as he stood on the balcony of the pavilion trying his best to smile under the handicap of a bad cut on his chin, which bore several stitches. This he sustained in trying to field a sharp snick in the slips from Wyatt. The ball hit him in the face—he probably lost sight of it as he has only one eye—and he had to rush off the field with his mouth bleeding freely. He symbolised the spirit of South Africa by returning and playing a winning part after having had three stitches put in. Moreover, he was labouring under the pain of a stiff left shoulder which affected his bowling considerably.

He had great difficulty in getting to the pavilion after the match, as the crowd rushed the pitch and, in the height of their joy, surrounded all the players. Finally, however, he was freed, and on reaching the dressing-room he found Chapman waiting to congratulate him on his captaincy and on South Africa's victory.

Details of the play on page 16.

BROADCASTING page 3, column 1.

Sunday Times

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POLITICAL NOTES

THE ROUND-TABLE CONFERENCE.

IMPENDING SHIPWRECK

By OUR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT.

The Round-Table Conference started with a wonderful appearance of concord that tempted the uninformed observer to conclude that, thanks to the blessed word "federalism," a miracle had been accomplished, and that India had found herself as a nation. For a time the speeches were exemplary in their sweet reasonableness, the Hindus proving themselves very adroit in the exposition of engaging sentiment. But, as every experienced Anglo-Indian foresaw, unanimity went out of the window when electoral representation came in at the door. The Moslem claim for a definite percentage of representatives in both the local and the central legislatures is specific in terms and definite in implication, and dismiss the Hindu objection that the proposition is "undemocratic." Rightly or wrongly, Moslems believe that the aim of the Hindus is to secure a majority in both Chambers of the Federal Legislature, and so be enabled, after a Constitution has been granted, to vary the law as to electoral representation. The Hindus, of course, repudiate any such intention, but they will not agree to a plan that will prevent the development. So a deadlock has been reached, and the Conference is moribund, for the formula that will compose the age-long feud between Hindu and Moslem passes the wit of man to conceive.

The attitude of the Hindus and the Mohammedans towards this country is as opposite as the poles. There seems little doubt that the former are determined in their minds, whatever they may protest, to be left completely free to repudiate any Indian loans of the present Indian Government for any reasons they think adequate, and the pensions now payable to officers and officials by the Indian Government. Their attitude, always courteously expressed and not displayed with unnecessary obtrusiveness, is "Cut the painter"; and it is well that it should be realised.

No doubt the Hindus will endeavour to put on this country, especially on the Government, all the responsibility for the break-up of the Conference. Some steps must be taken to make clear to both the Hindu and the Mohammedan population in India that the rock on which the Conference was wrecked was the Hindu claim for so-called "democratic representation."

Still, the Conference will have done good, if only by its evidence of the fairness and impartiality of British statesmen, irrespective of party. On all hands tributes are paid to the ability and fairness of the Lord Chancellor in presiding over his most difficult committee, and to his indefatigable personal efforts to secure agreement. The Prime Minister also has to be congratulated. There was a report current a few days ago that he was artfully being manœuvred into the specious position of acting as formal arbitrator between Hindus and Moslems, a course which would have been fatal to his prestige and disastrous in every way.

Labour's Troubles.

One of the difficulties of the Ministry during the past year has arisen from the preoccupation of the Prime Minister with the three great Conferences, which has prevented his regular attendance at the House of Commons. From one point of view this matters little, for Mr. Ramsay MacDonald does not conceal his lack of enthusiasm for Parliamentary debate. The trouble is that the Government have had no regular leader in his absence—to play the part of Mr. Bonar Law in the Coalition Government of 1918-22. It is not suggested that the presence of a regular leader would have made any difference to the left-wing critics, for they began their attack immediately the Government took office, and did not wait to see whether it could do anything or not. But it is thought that a regular leader of ability would have seen that the Government case was systematically presented, with great advantage to the movement in the country.

University Conservatives.

The new Federation of University Conservative Associations will hold its first annual conference at Birmingham on the 7th, 8th and 9th of January. Mr. John Buchan will deliver the presidential address on the second day, Thursday, the 8th, and Mr. Neville Chamberlain will speak at the public meeting in the evening.

Anti-Dumping Legislation.

Rumour suggests that the Government may to some extent modify its attitude on the fiscal question, and that note is strengthened by the marked divisions on the Dyestuffs Act. It is hinted that a beginning may be made by anti-dumping legislation, but in so far as Russian cereals and timber are concerned, nothing could be done immediately, as the denunciation of the existing *modus vivendi* with the Soviet Government requires six months' notice. Moreover, there are substantial British commitments under the export credits scheme; the general supplies of Russian timber have in fact been purchased for a period ahead by a British syndicate; and the wheat imports, while they have largely increased within recent months, are still lower than the pre-war average, and, in any event, if not sent here, would merely go elsewhere with the same effect on the world price. A return to tariffs before long is almost certain, but it cannot be effected without a good deal of derangement.

CASINO SLUMP.

FRENCH TREASURY LOSES £328,000 IN TAXES.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

PARIS, Saturday.

Official figures relating to the business of the 169 casinos in France during the winter of 1929-30 and the summer of 1930 show a decrease of revenue compared with the previous year amounting to £544,000. Takings during the year ended October, 1930, amounted to £2,696,000, and the amount paid to the State in taxes this year was £1,370,000, a decrease of £328,000. The revenue, however, was far higher than, for example, in 1922, when the total takings amounted to less than £1,000,000.

As usual, the casino at Le Touquet heads the list with a total of £334,424; Deauville had £277,640, and next come the Municipal Casino at Cannes, with £258,368, and the Palais de Mediterrane in Nice.

Only thirteen of the fifty leading casinos show increased takings compared with the previous year. The principal is the Palais de Mediterrane, one of the youngest of the casinos, which nearly doubled its income. With a few exceptions, the increases occurred in the smaller casinos, and it is suggested that gamblers are tending to show a preference for these institutions.

STOP-PRESS NEWS ON PAGE 10, COLUMN 2.

LORD MELCHETT DEAD

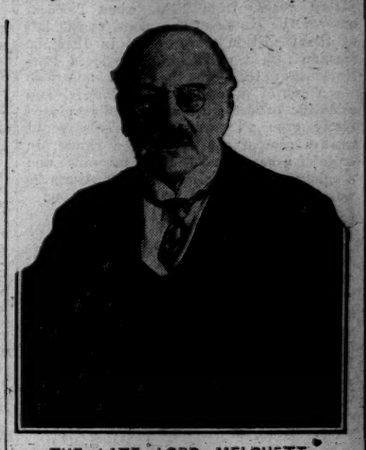
"FIELD-MARSHAL OF INDUSTRY" AND FAR-SIGHTED POLITICIAN.

HEAD OF £95,000,000 COMBINE

The SUNDAY TIMES regrets to announce the death in London yesterday afternoon of Lord Melchett of Landford, after an illness lasting many weeks.

The announcement of his death at his house in Lowndes Square followed a bulletin stating that he had become weaker during the night. He had been suffering from phlebitis.

Throughout the day there had been an almost continuous stream of callers at Lowndes Square. Many messages, including telegrams, were delivered, and a number of relatives and personal friends called. These included the Hon. Mrs. Hodern, Lord Melchett's daughter, the Hon. Mrs. Henry Mond, his daughter-in-law, and Dr. Robert Mond, his brother.



THE LATE LORD MELCHETT.

THE KING'S SYMPATHY.

The King last night sent from Sandringham the following telegram to Lady Melchett:—

It is with sincere regret that the Queen and I have learned of the death of Lord Melchett, and we assure you and your family of our heartfelt sympathy in your irreparable loss.

I fully recognise how constantly he devoted his energies to the improvement of the industrial life of the country.

GEORGE R.I.

Lord Melchett was a man of extraordinarily wide and varied interests; but he will be remembered chiefly as an industrialist and as the head of the gigantic £95,000,000 combine, Imperial Chemical Industries, which controls some forty-five companies, and is interested in about a dozen others.

Lord Melchett is survived by Lady Melchett; his heir, the Hon. Henry Mond; and three daughters. He will be buried with full Jewish rites. Details of the funeral arrangements will probably be issued to-day.

THE NEW PEER.

Lord Melchett's son, the Hon. Henry Ludwig Mond, M.P. for East Toxteth, Liverpool, succeeds to the barony, and his transference to the House of Lords will cause a bye-election. The new peer is 32 years of age, and takes an active and prominent part in many of the big undertakings associated with his father's name.

Besides being a director of Imperial Chemical Industries and associated concerns, Mr. Mond is a director of Barclays Bank and a member of the executive committee of the Federation of British Industries. He sat in the House of Commons as Liberal M.P. for Ely from December, 1923, to October, 1924, when he was defeated. In March, 1929, he was elected Conservative M.P. for East Toxteth at a bye-election, and was returned again at the General Election a few months later, when the figures were:—

H. L. Mond (Con.)	17,678
J. J. Cleary (Lab.)	9,904
A. O. Roberts (Lib.)	9,287

In 1920 Mr. Mond married Miss Amy Gwen Wilson, of Klerksdorp, Transvaal. There are two sons and one daughter.

"A BRILLIANT LEADER."

Amongst many tributes to the late Lord Melchett communicated to the SUNDAY TIMES last night were the following:—

Lord Ashfield:—"By the death of Lord Melchett I lose a great friend and colleague. Our large industries are deprived of a brilliant leader at a time when his services would be of incalculable value to the country and Empire. The nation will mourn the passing of one who has played so decisive a rôle in public life."

Sir Harry McGowan (Vice-President and Director of Imperial Chemical Industries):—"What can I say of him? He was my devoted friend. We have worked together for many years, and his death is a great loss. I personally have lost not only a friend but a great inspiration. Lord Melchett's death is the loss of a genius to the nation and to industry as well as to the political world. His work in the House of Lords, though not of the spectacular order, was always extremely effective. He brought to that House a sense of appreciation of what was needed for the country's good. His outlook upon the affairs of the country, and also of the Empire, was always characterised by its broad and profound belief in the possibilities of the future. Lord Melchett was beloved by all who knew him intimately."

Lord Reading (a director of Imperial Chemical Industries).—"The nation has lost one of its foremost personalities, and his position in the industrial and financial world was, I verily believe, unique. None could speak with greater authority upon these questions. His outlook was of the widest, and most varied. He was profoundly interested in the political questions of the day. He had an abiding belief in the future of this country and the Empire, and was never tired of expatiating upon all its possibilities. He did not hesitate to change his mind when he was convinced that circumstances justified the course.

"He combined a power of destructive criticism with constructive capacity, and was distinguished throughout by the courage and decisiveness with which he attacked the problems of the day. Behind a somewhat brusk manner at times beat a great heart, and he was beloved by those who had close and intimate association with him."

AN APPRECIATION

INTELLECT ARMED AT EVERY POINT.

By A CORRESPONDENT.

Someone said of Lord Melchett that he was not merely a captain but a field-marshal of industry. Certainly during the past decade—the period of his greatest enterprises—his figure has been notable among the men of Big Business in Britain. And not in Britain alone. Few men since the war, either in America or Germany, have so stamped their vision and individuality upon the development of international industry on the widest scale.

Of the many first-rate men of affairs that I have known Lord Melchett stays in my mind as the most fully-rounded. Some have the imagination to see an opportunity, but lack the knowledge or the power to turn it to account. Some are strong on organisation, but weak on finance. Some, while expert administrators, lack the diplomatic gift, are poor judges of men, or fail to send the driving-power of their personality through every unit and every rank in their organisation.

FOUR ACHIEVEMENTS.

But Lord Melchett always seemed to be armed at every point. He had a vision that came near to turning brick walls into transparent glass. That busy pouncing mind of his, always bubbling with ideas, could embrace the widest conceptions of business without ever losing touch with the essentials of ways and means. He moved with compelling ease among all the financial, structural, legal, and human intricacies of the mergers he conceived and carried out; and he could himself work harder, though with little apparent effort, and get more work and loyalty out of others than any man I ever met.

Just run over his four outstanding achievements of the past seven or eight years. In 1923 he began the rationalisation of the South Wales anthracite coal industry, and in 1928, by virtue of the agreement he concluded with the late Lord Buckland and Sir David Llewellyn, he brought 85 per cent. of that industry under one control. In 1926 he proceeded to the

RANDALL'S

Winter **Sale** *of Shoes*

All Shoes in this Sale have been very greatly reduced, and some wonderful bargains are obtainable. Do not miss this unique opportunity.

Real Crocodile Saddle TIE SHOE, low Leather Heel.
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Black or Bulrush Brown Lizard Calf COURT or ONE-BAR SHOES, Louis Heels, perfect fitting.
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rationalisation of the British chemical industries, and, with Sir Harry McGowan, formed the gigantic combine that opened a new chapter in our national industrialism. In 1928 he completed the rationalisation of the nickel industry by means of the International Nickel Company of Canada. And as if this were not enough, he initiated in 1927 the famous round-table conferences between Capital and Labour that have already deeply affected the spirit and conduct of British industry.

But business was only one of the main interests of Lord Melchett's life. For fully fifteen years, from 1906, when he first entered the House of Commons, to the fall of the Coalition Government in 1922, he was an ardent politician. He loved Parliamentary life, was lost and miserable when out of it, and as an industrial and scientific expert with a mind that played freely over all national problems, could always compel the ear of the House, in spite of a harsh and thickish utterance and a manner and presence that sometimes he was at small pains to make ingratiating.

BEHIND THE SCENES.

What excellent work he did as Commissioner of Works between 1916 and 1921, and later on as Minister of Health, when in a few months he rescued the national housing scheme from its chaos of prodigality and gave it a new start on business-like lines, is a matter of public record. But I shall be very much surprised if the part he played behind the scenes during the war does not turn out to have been even more effective than his ministerial work.

It was his gift—I am not sure that genius would be too strong a word—for seeing things exactly as they were, and for swooping to the core of a situation which told him that the war was being bungled and that only Mr. Lloyd George could retrieve the position. Once convinced of that, he became the inspirer of the Liberal War Committee through whose vigilant activities it was that the change was brought about. The same lucidity of mind made him, if I remember right, the first Liberal of any note to advocate national service.

One of the ablest and best-equipped defenders of Free Trade twenty-five years ago and a Liberal by inheritance and conviction, Lord Melchett ended up a member of the Conservative Party, a Protectionist, and a strong supporter of Empire Economic Unity, a cause which he was pleading as long ago as 1926. The colossal economic upheaval of the war, the new world with new problems that emerged from it, and the progressive lapse of Liberalism into Socialism, cut him loose from the old moorings and gave him a fresh perspective. Open in acknowledging his change of view and cogent in defending it, I have never heard anyone accuse him of either insincerity or self-interest in the developments that landed him at the opposite pole to his earlier beliefs.

UNFAILING COURAGE.

The last political service he was able to render—and it was a very great one—was the insertion of the spread-over clause in the Coal Mines Act. All of us at this moment, and the miners before everybody, are reaping the benefits of that sagacious suggestion.

There was a time during the war when his German-Jewish ancestry—he himself was born in Lancashire sixty-two years ago—exposed Lord Melchett to the charges and insinuations that were all too current in the madness of the hour. He met his detractors in the law courts and smashed them, with the courage and self-reliance that never failed him. The terrific drubbing he gave the Government a little while ago over its Palestine policy was another proof of his fighting, unafraid nature.

The creative side of him found expression in business and politics; the critical in music and the arts. Beauty made an instant appeal to him, and he brought to its appreciation a trained eye and ear and the spiritual sensitiveness of his race.

I have long ranked Lord Melchett among the best talkers in London. His full and fertile mind, and his vast experience of men and affairs in many lands, the breadth of his cultural interests, his gift of pungently realistic speech that half-belied the mellow kindly nature of the man, and the impetuous unceasing flow of ideas that swept through him, made him an enthralling companion—and never more so than at his own table in the home where he was so deeply loved.

RATIONALISATION PIONEER.

THE TURNER-MOND CONVERSATIONS.

The son of the late Dr. Ludwig Mond, the famous chemist, Lord Melchett was born at Farnworth, in Lancashire, sixty-two years ago. He had a distinguished academic career at Cheltenham, Cambridge, and Edinburgh Universities; "ate his dinners" at the Inner Temple, was called to the Bar, and married Miss Violet Goetze, a granddaughter of John Bentley, in 1894; practised as a barrister on the North Wales and Cheshire Circuit; took an active part in the management of the great industries which his father had established and developed; and entered Parliament as Liberal Member for Chester in 1906.

In 1910 he was elected Liberal Member for Swansea, represented the constituency as a Coalition Liberal in 1918, and as a National Liberal at the General Election of 1922. The following year he was defeated in a three-cornered fight by the small majority of 115 votes, but in 1924 he again entered the House of Commons as Liberal Member for Carmarthen. In 1926 he left the Liberal Party and joined the Conservatives. He was First Commissioner of Works from 1916 to 1921, and Minister of Health from 1921 to 1922.

His defection from the Liberal Party was a hard blow to Mr. Lloyd George, whose bitter speeches following the announcement were a measure of his disappointment.

Mr. Lloyd George had good cause for regret. Sir Alfred Mond, as he then was, was a tower of strength to his party. His amazing imperturbability, the smiling benevolence with which he would chop the head off an opponent, the devastating facts which he generally held up his sleeve, his cold metallic thought and power of going straight to the heart of a subject made him a constant source of anxiety to opponents.

As chairman of Brunner Mond, Ltd., and the Mond Nickel Co., Ltd., Lord Melchett was mainly instrumental in creating the world-wide Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd., with an authorised share capital of £95,000,000. He was a director of many colliery companies, the Westminster Bank, the Power Gas Corporation, and other important organisations; founder-president of the Institute of Fuel, and chairman of the Board of Management of the London School of Tropical Medicine.

CO-OPERATION GOSPEL.

His whole energies in later years were devoted to the task of restoring order to British industry, in trying to lift it out of the chaos caused by the war, and to put it on a footing that would enable it to hold its own with foreign interests. The problem, he saw, had many aspects, but above all, those of efficiency and good will. "I do not believe," he once said, "that the Germans are more brilliant than ourselves or work harder, but they organise much more systematically, and are prepared to spend a great deal of money on the chance of something coming out of it." He never tired of preaching the gospel of co-operation and the necessity for research and experiment.

In other fields Lord Melchett was an equally hard and enthusiastic worker. When he visited Palestine two years ago he advocated cordial co-operation between the Arabs and the Jews for the development of that country, and early this year he went on a tour of South Africa, partly as a holiday, but also to extend his knowledge of the British Empire.

ECONOMIC BOND.

As a result of his visit, during which he stayed with Sir Abe Bailey, the formation of a South Africa Economic Union was announced. As president of the Empire Economic Union Lord Melchett was delighted at the formation of the organisation, and wrote to Sir Abe expressing the hope that such bodies would be constituted in all the Dominions for the purpose of a closer and more intimate study of the advancement of Imperial economic interests.

One of his greatest works recently had been the Peace in Industry Movement. He was one of a number of prominent industrialists who met members of the Council of the Trades Union Congress, and inaugurated the National Council of Industry and Commerce.

The result of the Turner-Mond conversations as they were called, was a non-party body, whose object was the protection of home markets and no "achievement in our own time of some of the blessings which will flow from the concerted will of the nations of a United British Commonwealth."

In addition to these activities, Lord Melchett was able to find time to act as a member of the Royal Institution, as chairman and trustee of the Imperial War Museum, and as vice-President of the Infants' Hospital. He was also chairman of the World Power Conference in 1928. Last October he resigned from the Jewish Agency for Palestine and the Zionist Organisation as a protest against the terms of the British Government's statements of policy in regard to Palestine.

In his patronage of the arts he emulated his father, who was the donor of the famous Mond collection of Italian Masters in the National Gallery. Lord Melchett was a collector of a very wide range, for his collection included a fine portrait by Rembrandt and also some extremely rare and fine Greek marble which adorns his London house.

"MAKE YOURSELF NECESSARY."

Behind his imperturbable manner and hard business outlook there was a rich vein of imagination and sentiment. He saw Palestine as a land flowing with milk and honey, Judea as a rich fruit garden, the scrub on Mount Carmel a true "vineyard of the Lord," fragrant again with olive and fig and grape. He had no doubts of the potentialities of the land under scientific cultivation, and no doubts of the ability of the Jewish people to become successful agriculturists. He saw similar potentialities on a vast scale in the British Empire, and in Imperial development the solution of Britain's economic troubles.

For such a busy man recreation would seem to have been impossible, yet in what little spare time he had he found enjoyment in riding, golf, motoring, and shooting. When he was created a Baron, Lord Melchett took his title from his country estate, Melchet Court, Romsey, Hampshire, reverting, however, to the old style of its spelling by adding a second "t."

At Melchett Court, the Mond motto, "Make yourself necessary," appears over the mantel of the dining room, and Lord Melchett lived up to it.

Lady Melchett, who was born in South Africa, is a noted hostess, and played a large part in his varied interests. The eldest of their three daughters, Eva Violet, married Viscount Erleigh, son and heir of the Marquis of Reading, in 1914.

ZIONISTS' LOSS.

"A REAL PRINCE IN ISRAEL."

Representatives of all Zionist bodies in the United Kingdom, meeting in London last night for the thirty-first annual Conference of the English Zionist Federation, expressed their deep regret at the death of Lord Melchett, who was president of the Federation until his resignation recently. A three minutes' silence was observed.

The Rev. J. K. Goldbloom, who presided, said: "Lord Melchett was a great man and a great Zionist. His death is a loss to the Jewish people and a loss to Zionism."

Mr. Simon Marks, a vice-president of the Federation, said: "If ever there was a real Prince in Israel, that man was Lord Melchett. He found in Zionist ideals that inner spiritual satisfaction which had been denied to him, as it is denied to most other people in other walks of life. The dominant feeling of his life ever since he came into touch with Dr. Weizmann was Zionistic. Always at hand for advice, he was a great pillar of support to Dr. Weizmann and his colleagues. We have lost one of the greatest supporters that we had in this country, and not only in this country, but the world over. His loss comes at a time when we can least afford the loss of so great a dynamic being. We have only to bow our heads in deep sorrow and express our heartfelt condolences with the family."

Dr. Weizmann, President of the Zionist Organisation, said:—

"The British Empire and England have lost a great man, who was in politics, industry, and finance one of the great figures of the country. He was always full of energy, initiative and devotion. As for the Jewish people, they have lost one of their best friends. He had the cause of Palestine at heart, and did a great deal of work there. Only a short time ago he was making plans for a visit to Palestine. We consider it an irreparable loss. As for myself, I have lost a very great personal friend."

A LABOUR TRIBUTE.

Mr. Arthur Hayday, Chairman of the General Council of the Trades Union Congress, referring last night to the part that

Continued on next column.

LATE NEWS

SKI-ERS OVERWHELMED.

SEVEN BURIED BY AN AVALANCHE: THREE KILLED.

A Reuter message from Zurich this morning stated that a party of ski-ers were overwhelmed by an avalanche yesterday in mountains near Saentis. One woman and two men were completely buried. The other four managed to struggle out.

The bodies of the three who were buried were later recovered after several hours' work.

FATAL MOTOR SMASH.

A middle-aged man, at present unidentified, was killed and three persons, including two children, were injured, when a motor-coach skidded and mounted the pavement at Victoria Dock Road, Canning Town, E., last night.

CHANGING LONDON.

[*Specially drawn for the* SUNDAY TIMES *by Hanslip Fletcher.*

Another portion of London that is undergoing change. The buildings on the left, including Charing Cross Post Office, are to come down almost immediately as part of the plan for rebuilding the island block between Trafalgar Square, the Strand and Duncannon Street. The east side of Trafalgar Square, between the Strand and St. Martin-in-the-Fields, will be occupied by the new South Africa House, which will cost upwards of £300,000.

CHURCH FIRED BY CANDLE.

£100,000 DAMAGE.

CROWD PRAYS IN STREET.

OTTAWA, Saturday.

The Roman Catholic church of Saint Joseph's, one of the largest and most imposing churches in Ottawa, was totally destroyed by fire to-day with a loss which is estimated at nearly 500,000 dollars (£100,000).

The fire was caused by a votive candle which was upset by a child and set light to draperies surrounding a crib of the infant Jesus. A number of worshippers were in the church at the time of the fire. The church had recently been decorated at a cost of £9,000.

During the progress of the fire many members of the church knelt in prayer in the street asking for Divine assistance to save the edifice.—Reuter.

DOG DEVOTION.

AIREDALE'S GUARD AFTER TRAGEDY.

After its companion, an Alsatian dog, had been run over and killed by a motor car at Bassett, Southampton, an Airedale terrier stood on guard over the body throughout Friday night and attacked anyone who attempted to come near.

One man, who tried to coax away the Airedale, had part of his coat torn away by the dog's teeth.

Both dogs belonged to one owner, and had been brought up together.

AN INDEPENDENT U.S. PRESIDENT.

SOCIAL REFORMERS' SCHEME.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

NEW YORK, Saturday.

It may be true, as Professor Dewey, the National Chairman of the League for Independent Political Action asserts, that millions of Americans are disgusted with both major parties in the United States. The movement to establish a third party for the Presidential election of 1932 cannot, however, mature.

The electoral law, as it exists to-day, must be revised to secure such a change as the reformers desire, and that change could not be made in a year or two. Professor Dewey assumes that the new party can be the incarnation of an ideal which he calls "Social planning" as opposed to competitive private interests, but his critics, of the Republican and Democratic organisations alike, argue that such an ideal cannot become the property of a party and can be successfully achieved only in so far as it pervades national thought and obtains an assent which transcends partisan divisions.

As an alternative, it is urged that the law might be changed to make possible the direct election of a presidential candidate independent of party.

Continued from preceding column.

Lord Melchett played in the discussion between the General Council of the T.U.C. and representatives of British industry, said: "During those discussions Lord Melchett was very sincere in the desire that there should be a better understanding between organised labour and industry. We regret the passing of a great personality, whose influence would have been of inestimable value in implementing the results of the discussions."

Mr. J. H. Pooley, Secretary of the Society of Chemical Industry, said:

"In spite of his multifarious activities in commercial and political spheres, Lord Melchett maintained a great interest in the work and status of the industrial chemist, and was an enthusiastic member of the Society of Chemical Industry, of which he was this year's president.

"This interest was inherited from his father, Dr. Ludwig Mond, who was partly responsible for the founding of the society fifty years ago, and was one of its presidents. Lord Melchett would undoubtedly have been invited to become president earlier, but the society wished to reserve for him the distinction of presiding over the jubilee celebrations in 1931, a circumstance of which he was deeply appreciative. Lord Melchett had contributed freely to the funds of the society, which is a professional body extending throughout the English-speaking world, whose objects are the advancement of the research and theory of chemistry, and, in particular, its relation to industry. On the occasion of his election as president last year he made a strong plea for the unification of all scientific bodies, which was very dear to him."

CANAL RAYS DISCOVERER.

BERLIN, Saturday.

The death is announced here; at the age of 80, of Professor Eugen Goldstein, the physicist, who is famous for his discovery of "Canal rays."—Reuter.

GRAVE ILLNESS OF JOFFRE.

AMPUTATION OF HIS LEFT LEG.

TOO WEAK FOR THIRD OPERATION.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

PARIS, Saturday night.

Following disconcerting rumours which have been current for some weeks past regarding the health of Marshal Joffre, an official bulletin was issued to-day disclosing that his condition is giving rise to acute anxiety.

He has been suffering from inflammation of the arteries, and according to the

MARSHAL JOFFRE.

"Temps" his left leg was amputated a week ago, gangrene having developed. It is stated unofficially that the Marshal's condition is so precarious that he is not expected to live more than a few days.

This morning the following communiqué was issued, signed by Professors Lericheé, J.-L. Faure, and Labbé, and Doctors Boulin and Fontaine:—

"Marshal Joffre has been suffering for some months from arteritis of the lower limbs, and a sudden aggravation of this illness necessitated urgent surgical intervention. This was done by Professor Leriche, Professor Labbé, and Dr. Boulin.

"After a temporary improvement, which gave great hope, the condition of the Marshal has now become disquieting."

IDENTITY CONCEALED.

The evening bulletin, signed by Professor Leriche and Dr. Boulin, stated:—

"Condition stationary without aggravation; pulse, 75; temperature, 98.3."

[The normal pulse rate is 72 and temperature 98.4.]

It was in accordance with the Marshal's personal wish that no public announcement was previously made on the subject of his illness. Even in the nursing home—of the Frères de St. Jean de Dieu, in the Rue Oudinot—the identity of the distinguished invalid was not generally known for some time.

He had been admitted—again by his personal desire—under an assumed name, in order that his family and friends should alone know of his presence. Prior to his removal to the nursing home an operation had been performed for the amputation of his left foot.

The Marshal, who was in command of the French Army during the first two years of the war, is now in his 79th year.

RIGHT LEG INFECTED.

PARIS, Saturday night.

Marshal Joffre's left leg was amputated below the knee. During the next few days he seemed to be going on well, but last night fresh inflammation was observed.

A further amputation at the thigh would have been performed, but the patient's condition was such that it was feared that he could not stand the shock. The right leg is now infected, although to a lesser degree.—Reuter.

DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY CLAIMED.

PARIS, Saturday.

Diplomatic immunity was claimed by the manager of the Soviet Commercial Agency in Paris to-day in a case before the Paris Arbitration Court when a Mr. Aertzfert claimed £16,000 awarded him in an action brought in an English court against the Soviet Commercial Agency some time ago. It was announced that judgment will be given in eight days.—Central News.

ON FIRE NEAR ADEN.

BRITISH STEAMER IN PERIL.

AMERICAN VESSEL STANDING BY.

ADEN, Saturday.

The British steamer Queenmoor is on fire near Aden. Reports state that there is a serious fire in the coal bunkers. Flames are leaping above the hatches amidships and the bridge is burning.—British United Press.

A Lloyd's message from Aden states:—"The British steamer Queenmoor—Mormugao for Rotterdam—reports by wireless that fire broke out in the cross bunkers, afterwards spreading to cargo in between decks. American motor-ship Jeff Davis standing by. The salvage steamer Preserver has left to render assistance. At 7.15 a.m. the vessel's position was approximately thirty-nine miles east of Aden.

A later message adds that the crew took to the boats. The bridge and accommodation were totally destroyed.

[The Queenmoor (4,862 tons) is registered at Liverpool and owned by the Moor Line Limited (W. Runciman and Co., Ltd., managers). She was built in 1924 at South Shields by J. Readhead and Sons, Limited. The Jeff Davis (6,204 tons) is owned by the United States Shipping Board, and is registered at New Orleans.]

GERMANY'S DEFICIT.

HOPE OF BIGGER YIELD FROM NEW TAXES.

BERLIN, Saturday.

The Reich Treasury receipts in the first two-thirds of the current financial year have amounted to £316,000,000, being £26,000,000 less than the Budget estimate. In November the receipts totalled £32,000,000.

It is hoped that the new taxes will bring in increased receipts during the remaining four months, and thus help to reduce the deficit.—Exchange.

INQUEST COINCIDENCE.

MAN WHO WAS FOREMAN A FORTNIGHT AGO.

Holding an inquest yesterday on Henry Maurice Lewis, 55, a general dealer, of Circus, Minories, who died in St. Bartholomew's Hospital from blood poisoning set up by an injury to his thumb caused while he was cutting bread, the City Coroner (Dr. Waldo) said he recognised the body as that of a man who was a foreman of the jury at the Court about two weeks ago.

The widow complained that her husband was kept waiting in the hospital in agony with his arm uncovered for two hours on Monday before anyone came to see him. When the surgeon did look at him, she declared, he walked away and attended to other patients. She added that four hours elapsed before her husband was operated upon.

Dr. Bradshaw said the man had been asked in the morning to stay in the hospital, but he refused. Then he was asked to come back at five o'clock, when the minor operations were done, but he did not arrive till 6.20 p.m. It would not have made any difference if he had been operated on the moment he came.

The Coroner, recording a verdict of "Accidental death," advised the widow, if she was still dissatisfied, to go to the hospital. He added that it seemed to him to have been the man's own fault that he was not seen earlier.

SWISS WINTER RESORTS.

BERNE, December 27.

To-days weather reports from the winter resorts are as follows:—

Place.	Height in feet. Station.	Slopes.	Ski-ing Temp. Fahr.	Weather.	Depth of Snow in ins. St.	Ski.
Adelboden	4,462	6,430	—	Overcast	4	16
Andermatt	4,738	6,857	27	Snowing	12	Over 40
Arosa	6,089	6,561	19	Snowing	14	16
Caux s/Montreux	3,694	5,577	—	Overcast	12	24
Château d'Oex	3,209	3,280	36	Overcast	8	10
Davos	5,121	7,217	—	Snowing	10	36
Les Diablerets	3,773	6,102	28	Overcast	12	24
Engelberg	3,359	5,905	—	Cloudy	10	28
Flims-Waldhaus	3,773	4,429	28	Heavy snowfall	16	28
Grindelwald	3,445	5,249	30	Overcast	8	24
Gstaad	3,455	6,332	28	Overcast	6	16
Gurnigel	3,806	5,249	38	Cloudy	8	16
Kandersteg	3,836	3,937	23	Fine, a few clouds	6	10
Kleine Schiedegg	6,772	—	23	Overcast	12	16
Klosters	3,904	7,217	27	Heavy snowfall	18	36
Lenzerheide-Parpan	4,846	—	23	Snowing	14	14
Leukerbad	4,629	7,644	30	Overcast	10	18
Montana-Crans	4,987	5,511	34	Cloudy	2	4
Morgins	4,396	—	—	Overcast	8	8
Mürren	5,413	6,299	25	Cloudy	8	14
Pontresina	5,915	6,725	21	Fine, a few clouds	6	10
St. Cergue	3,520	5,249	—	Overcast	12	20

—Reuter.

ENGLISH PILGRIMS TO ROME.

VATICAN CITY, Saturday.

The Pope to-day received in audience thirty pilgrims belonging to the Catholic Association, led by Father Bys, rector of the English Catholic church of San Silvestro,

VIADUCT DRAMA IN HOLBORN.

STOUT MAN WHO WENT IN FOR SLIMMING.

STRANGE TRAGEDY.

The death of Meyer Henry Hart, aged 30, a boot manufacturer's agent of Anson Road, Cricklewood, who was found injured on the footway in Shoe Lane below Holborn Viaduct, was inquired into by Dr. F. J. Waldo, the City Coroner, yesterday.

Joseph Hart, of Elm Way, Neasden, a brother, said that since August, Hart, who was a stout man, had been slimming by dieting and indulging in swimming and sun bathing. He (witness) thought that this treatment was too rapid, because Hart had lost three or four stone in weight in three months.

The Coroner: You think that he had been fasting too much?—Yes, because his skin was in folds. He cut down his food to the minimum.

Mr. Hart added that his brother had intended to give up his work and office because a man had promised him a big position as secretary. Hart had been worried because the promise had not materialised.

In reply to Mr. Daniel Hopkin, M.P., counsel for the relatives, Mr. Hart said that his brother was financially sound.

Dr. J. R. Beddard, of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, said death was due to the man's injuries. Hart was suffering from gastric trouble, which would have caused him to lose weight. He (witness) did not think that the dieting did the man any harm in view of his condition.

Mr. Hopkin, who said that he himself weighed 14 st. 8 oz., asked the doctor if he (Mr. Hopkin) reduced his weight to 11 st. in a short time it would undermine his constitution.

Dr. Beddard replied that fat in a healthy, active person did not indicate the need for dieting.

The Coroner said there was a certain amount of mystery in the case, and it looked as though Mr. Hart did fall for some reason or other. He recorded an open verdict.

BIGAMY ADMISSION BY MINISTER.

DAUGHTER'S SILENCE.

SARNIA (Ontario), Saturday.

The Rev. Samuel Venmore Williams, aged 49, a Presbyterian minister from England, pleaded guilty here to-day to a charge of bigamy, and was remanded for sentence.

Mr. Williams came to Canada in 1928 after leaving his wife and three children in England. Last year, it is alleged, he remarried here. On returning from a visit to England, he brought out his daughter, aged 17, but at no time did she betray the fact that her mother was still living in England. Intercepted letters, however, aroused the suspicions of the man's Canadian wife.—Reuter.

SHOT AT DAWN.

ANOTHER NEW YORK GANG MURDER.

NEW YORK, Saturday.

Another cold-blooded gang murder was added to New York's long list at dawn to-day, when the proprietor of an "uptown speakeasy" was riddled with seven bullets in his own bar room after a desperate pistol battle with five rivals who resented his operations in "their territory."

The assassins rushed into the place forcing a taxi-driver to enter first as a shield for themselves and fired volley after volley, splintering woodwork and mirrors in the room. The victim was found by the police mortally wounded with a revolver under him.—Reuter.

ALLEGED FRAUD ECHO.

BRITISH APPLICATION FOR EXTRADITION.

NEW YORK, Saturday.

Decision was reserved to-day by the U.S. Commissioner, Mr. Garrett W. Cotter, on the application of the British Government for the extradition, on charges of fraud, of Arthur J. Klein, alias Abraham Jacob Klein, a British subject, who arrived in the United States early in November.

It is alleged by the British authorities that Klein received £22,863 in England during the summer, knowing it to have been obtained by fraudulent representations.—Reuter.

THE LIBERAL PRESS IN EGYPT.

CAIRO, Saturday.

The Liberal Constitutional Party has issued a new paper, "Al Fellah El Masri" (the Egyptian peasant), to replace "El Siassah," which was suspended on Sunday, after two warnings, for publishing an article on a statement of the Prime Minister which had appeared in a London paper, and a cartoon which cast ridicule on Ministers.

The editor of "El Siassah," Dr. Haikal, has been sent for trial for alleged defamation of Ministers.—Reuter.

MINISTER SAVES AUDIENCE.

DASH TO RAISE FIRE ALARM.

THROUGH SPARKS AND DEBRIS.

DRAMATIC END TO AN ENTERTAINMENT.

A fire broke out last night at a boot and shoe factory in the east end of Glasgow at a time when an entertainment was in progress in an adjacent mission hall attended by 300 men, women, and children.

They were unaware of the outbreak until the arrival of a minister, Mr. Charlesworth, who had to fight his way through flying sparks and debris into the hall to warn them of the danger. He mounted the platform and quietly told the people to leave.

On leaving the hall they found that the factory, which belongs to Messrs. Gallery, was a blazing inferno. The flames were then licking the walls of the hall. Shortly afterwards the roof caught fire.

The wind hampered the firemen, and for three hours they fought the flames.

Mrs. MacMillan, wife of the caretaker, refused to leave her little dwelling when warned by the firemen, and throughout the blaze she remained there saving what articles of furniture she could from the running water from the hoses. Mrs. Charlesworth, the minister's wife, assisted her.

The factory, which was one of the largest in the city, was burned out, the damage amounting to many thousands of pounds.

"SOLEMN PLEDGE BETRAYED."

ZIONISTS AND THE GOVERNMENT.

A protest against the "betrayal of a solemn pledge given to our people concerning our historical aspirations as embodied in the Balfour Declaration," was made by the Rev. U. K. Goodbloom, the principal speaker at the opening session in London last night of the thirty-first annual conference of the English Zionist Federation. Delegates from all Zionist societies in the United Kingdom are attending the conference.

Mr. Goodbloom said the declaration of policy with regard to Palestine, as contained in the White Paper, had sorely grieved Zionists, who were waiting impatiently to hear the result of the negotiations now taking place between the Government and their representatives.

"We as Jews and British citizens are in duty bound to protest against an attempt by any Government to repudiate obligations which were solemnly undertaken by representatives of this country on behalf of the whole civilised world as represented in the League of Nations." They would continue to protest against the White Paper, and would not cease until it was entirely withdrawn.

Dr. C. H. Weizmann, in a message, said:—"It is obviously impossible for me to say very much about the negotiations now in progress between representatives of His Majesty's Government and ourselves beyond expressing the hope that as a result of these negotiations the Jewish Agency may be enabled to carry on its work in Palestine free from the tremendous obstacles which have hitherto been placed in its way, and have so obviously handicapped our work for the Jewish National Home."

Mr. Lloyd George sent the following message: "The English Zionist Federation is meeting this year at a critical moment in the history of the Jewish race. It has my cordial wishes in its great task."

Mr. Bennett, the Prime Minister of Canada, wrote: "One cannot but admire the faith and courage which have upheld the Jewish people in their long and arduous pilgrimage towards their National Home. That difficulties have only inspired new determination has been the secret of Jewish achievements throughout the ages. I am sure that in present circumstances the Federation, in close and effective co-operation with the Mandatory Power, will continue its efforts."

MR. J. W. H. T. DOUGLAS

CRICKETING CLERIC'S TRIBUTE.

In the holly and flower decorated parish church at Leyton a service was held yesterday to the memory of Mr. J. W. H. T. Douglas, the former England and Essex cricketer.

The Rev. F. H. Gillingham, the cricketer, in a tribute, said: "John Douglas was loyal to his friends. If ever I had my back to the wall, I would rather have him by my side than almost anybody I know, because I feel he would never have let me down. In the wreck of the Oberon John Douglas might have saved his life, but he went to look for his father, and they perished together. His friends would not have expected him to do anything else."

Prayers were read by the Bishop of Barking, the first lesson was read by Mr. B. K. Castor, secretary of the Essex C.C.C., and the second lesson by General R. B. Colvin, Lord-Lieutenant of Essex. Many county cricketers were present.

IMPERIAL AND FOREIGN ITEMS.

Herr Adolph Rothermundt, artist and art collector, has died at Dresden, aged 82.

Toronto Labour Council have asked the provincial Government not to reduce taxes on racecourses.

The King and Queen of the Belgians have left for Switzerland, where they are to spend several days.

Unprecedented falls of snow have occurred in Northern Spain during the Christmas holidays. Several deaths have been reported from Navarre.

Extensive coffee-smuggling has been discovered in Hamburg Free Port and also on the German-Belgian Frontier. In Hamburg several persons have been arrested.

Otto Lang, a member of the Lang family of Oberammergau and a former member of the cast of the Passion Play, is to lecture in New York next month on the Passion Play.

Children playing at Oebisfelde, in Saxony, placed carbide in a bottle with water, and corked the bottle. It exploded and a nine-year-old boy was so badly cut about the throat that he bled to death in a few minutes.

A family of four adults of Lwow were shot dead while at their Christmas dinner, and a considerable amount of American currency, the property of an emigrant son who returned recently from Canada, was stolen.

A memorial has been erected at Havre over the common grave of the victims of the British hospital ships Galeka and Salta, which were destroyed by mines during the war.

The Colonisation and Land Settlement Department of the Canadian Pacific Railway has under consideration the settlement of sixty families on 14,000 acres of good land between Merville and Oyster River, on Vancouver Island.

rationalisation of the British chemical industries, and, with Sir Harry McGowan, formed the gigantic combine that opened a new chapter in our national industrialism. In 1928 he completed the rationalisation of the nickel industry by means of the International Nickel Company of Canada. And as if this were not enough, he initiated in 1927 the famous round-table conferences between Capital and Labour that have already deeply affected the spirit and conduct of British industry.

But business was only one of the main interests of Lord Melchett's life. For fully fifteen years, from 1906, when he first entered the House of Commons, to the fall of the Coalition Government in 1922, he was an ardent politician. He loved Parliamentary life, was lost and miserable when out of it, and as an industrial and scientific expert with a mind that played freely over all national problems, could always compel the ear of the House, in spite of a harsh and thickish utterance and a manner and presence that sometimes he was at small pains to make ingratiating.

BEHIND THE SCENES.

What excellent work he did as Commissioner of Works between 1916 and 1921, and later on as Minister of Health, when in a few months he rescued the national housing scheme from its chaos of prodigality and gave it a new start on business-like lines, is a matter of public record. But I shall be very much surprised if the part he played behind the scenes during the war does not turn out to have been even more effective than his ministerial work.

It was his gift—I am not sure that genius would be too strong a word—for seeing things exactly as they were, and for swooping to the core of a situation which told him that the war was being bungled and that only Mr. Lloyd George could retrieve the position. Once convinced of that, he became the inspirer of the Liberal War Committee through whose vigilant activities it was that the change was brought about. The same lucidity of mind made him, if I remember right, the first Liberal of any note to advocate national service.

One of the ablest and best-equipped defenders of Free Trade twenty-five years ago and a Liberal by inheritance and conviction, Lord Melchett ended up a member of the Conservative Party, a Protectionist, and a strong supporter of Empire Economic Unity, a cause which he was pleading as long ago as 1926. The colossal economic upheaval of the war, the new world with new problems that emerged from it, and the progressive lapse of Liberalism into Socialism, cut him loose from the old moorings and gave him a fresh perspective. Open in acknowledging his change of view and cogent in defending it, I have never heard anyone accuse him of either insincerity or self-interest in the developments that landed him at the opposite pole to his earlier beliefs.

UNFAILING COURAGE.

The last political service he was able to render—and it was a very great one—was the insertion of the spread-over clause in the Coal Mines Act. All of us at this moment, and the miners before everybody, are reaping the benefits of that sagacious suggestion.

There was a time during the war when his German-Jewish ancestry—he himself was born in Lancashire sixty-two years ago—exposed Lord Melchett to the charges and insinuations that were all too current in the madness of the hour. He met his detractors in the law courts and smashed them, with the courage and self-reliance that never failed him. The terrific drubbing he gave the Governmen' a little while ago over its Palestine policy was another proof of his fighting, unafraid nature.

The creative side of him found expression in business and politics; the critical in music and the arts. Beauty made an instant appeal to him, and he brought to its appreciation a trained eye and ear and the spiritual sensitiveness of his race.

I have long ranked Lord Melchett among the best talkers in London. His full and fertile mind, and his vast experience of men and affairs in many lands, the breadth of his cultural interests, his gift of pungently realistic speech that half-belied the mellow kindly nature of the man, and the impetuous unceasing flow of ideas that swept through him, made him an enthralling companion—and never more so than at his own table in the home where he was so deeply loved.

RATIONALISATION PIONEER.

THE TURNER-MOND CONVERSATIONS.

The son of the late Dr. Ludwig Mond, the famous chemist, Lord Melchett was born at Farnworth, in Lancashire, sixty-two years ago. He had a distinguished academic career at Cheltenham, Cambridge, and Edinburgh Universities; "ate his dinners" at the Inner Temple, was called to the Bar, and married Miss Violet Goetze, a granddaughter of John Bentley, in 1894; practised as a barrister on the North Wales and Cheshire Circuit; took an active part in the management of the great industries which his father had established and developed; and entered Parliament as Liberal Member for Chester in 1906.

In 1910 he was elected Liberal Member for Swansea, represented the constituency as a Coalition Liberal in 1918, and as a National Liberal at the General Election of 1922. The following year he was defeated in a three-cornered fight by the small majority of 115 votes, but in 1924 he again entered the House of Commons as Liberal Member for Carmarthen. In 1926 he left the Liberal Party and joined the Conservatives. He was First Commissioner of Works from 1916 to 1921, and Minister of Health from 1921 to 1922.

His defection from the Liberal Party was a hard blow to Mr. Lloyd George, whose bitter speeches following the announcement were a measure of his disappointment.

Mr. Lloyd George had good cause for regret. Sir Alfred Mond, as he then was, was a tower of strength to his party. His amazing imperturbability, the smiling benevolence with which he would chop the head off an opponent, the devastating facts which he generally held up his sleeve, his cold metallic thought and power of going straight to the heart of a subject made him a constant source of anxiety to opponents.

As chairman of Brunner Mond, Ltd., and the Mond Nickel Co., Ltd., Lord Melchett was mainly instrumental in creating the world-wide Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd., with an authorised share capital of £95,000,000. He was a director of many colliery companies, the Westminster Bank, the Power Gas Corporation, and other important organisations; founder-president of the Institute of Fuel, and chairman of the Board of Management of the London School of Tropical Medicine.

CO-OPERATION GOSPEL.

His whole energies in later years were devoted to the task of restoring order to British industry, in trying to lift it out of the chaos caused by the war, and to put it on a footing that would enable it to hold its own with foreign interests. The problem, he saw, had many aspects, but above all, those of efficiency and good will. "I do not believe," he once said, "that the Germans are more brilliant than ourselves or work harder, but they organise much more systematically, and are prepared to spend a great deal of money on the chance of something coming out of it." He never tired of preaching the gospel of co-operation and the necessity for research and experiment.

In other fields Lord Melchett was an equally hard and enthusiastic worker. When he visited Palestine two years ago he advocated cordial co-operation between the Arabs and the Jews for the development of that country, and early this year he went on a tour of South Africa, partly as a holiday, but also to extend his knowledge of the British Empire.

ECONOMIC BOND.

As a result of his visit, during which he stayed with Sir Abe Bailey, the formation of a South Africa Economic Union was announced. As president of the Empire Economic Union Lord Melchett was delighted at the formation of the organisation, and wrote to Sir Abe expressing the hope that such bodies would be constituted in all the Dominions for the purpose of a closer and more intimate study of the advancement of Imperial economic interests.

One of his greatest works recently had been the Peace in Industry Movement. He was one of a number of prominent industrialists who met members of the Council of the Trades Union Congress, and inaugurated the National Council of Industry and Commerce.

The result of the Turner-Mond conversations as they were called, was a non-party body, whose object was the protection of home markets and no "achievement in our own time of some of the blessings which will flow from the concerted will of the nations of a United British Commonwealth."

In addition to these activities, Lord Melchett was able to find time to act as a member of the Royal Institution, as chairman and trustee of the Imperial War Museum, and as vice-President of the Infants' Hospital. He was also chairman of the World Power Conference in 1928. Last October he resigned from the Jewish Agency for Palestine and the Zionist Organisation as a protest against the terms of the British Government's statements of policy in regard to Palestine.

In his patronage of the arts he emulated his father, who was the donor of the famous Mond collection of Italian Masters in the National Gallery. Lord Melchett was a collector of a very wide range, for his collection included a fine portrait by Rembrandt and also some extremely rare and fine Greek marble which adorns his London house.

"MAKE YOURSELF NECESSARY."

Behind his imperturbable manner and hard business outlook there was a rich vein of imagination and sentiment. He saw Palestine as a land flowing with milk and honey, Judea as a rich fruit garden, the scrub on Mount Carmel a true "vineyard of the Lord," fragrant again with olive and fig and grape. He had no doubts of the potentialities of the land under scientific cultivation, and no doubts of the ability of the Jewish people to become successful agriculturists. He saw similar potentialities on a vast scale in the British Empire, and in Imperial development the solution of Britain's economic troubles.

For such a busy man recreation would seem to have been impossible, yet in what little spare time he had he found enjoyment in riding, golf, motoring, and shooting. When he was created a Baron, Lord Melchett took his title from his country estate, Melchet Court, Romsey, Hampshire, reverting, however, to the old style of its spelling by adding a second "t."

At Melchett Court, the Mond motto, "Make yourself necessary," appears over the mantel of the dining room, and Lord Melchett lived up to it.

Lady Melchett, who was born in South Africa, is a noted hostess, and played a large part in his varied interests. The eldest of their three daughters, Eva Violet, married Viscount Erleigh, son and heir of the Marquis of Reading, in 1914.

ZIONISTS' LOSS.

"A REAL PRINCE IN ISRAEL."

Representatives of all Zionist bodies in the United Kingdom, meeting in London last night for the thirty-first annual Conference of the English Zionist Federation, expressed their deep regret at the death of Lord Melchett, who was president of the Federation until his resignation recently. A three minutes' silence was observed.

The Rev. J. K. Goldbloom, who presided, said: "Lord Melchett was a great man and a great Zionist. His death is a loss to the Jewish people and a loss to Zionism."

Mr. Simon Marks, a vice-president of the Federation, said: "If ever there was a real Prince in Israel, that man was Lord Melchett. He found in Zionist ideals that inner spiritual satisfaction which had been denied to him, as it is denied to most other people in other walks of life. The dominant feeling of his life ever since he came into touch with Dr. Weizmann was Zionistic. Always at hand for advice, he was a great pillar of support to Dr. Weizmann and his colleagues. We have lost one of the greatest supporters that we had in this country, and not only in this country, but the world over. His loss comes at a time when we can least afford the loss of so great a dynamic being. We have only to bow our heads in deep sorrow and express our heartfelt condolences with the family."

Dr. Weizmann, President of the Zionist Organisation, said:—

"The British Empire and England have lost a great man, who was in politics, industry, and finance one of the great figures of the country. He was always full of energy, initiative and devotion. As for the Jewish people, they have lost one of their best friends. He had the cause of Palestine at heart, and did a great deal of work there. Only a short time ago he was making plans for a visit to Palestine. We consider it an irreparable loss. As for myself, I have lost a very great personal friend."

A LABOUR TRIBUTE.

Mr. Arthur Hayday, Chairman of the General Council of the Trades Union Congress, referring last night to the part that

Continued on next column.

LATE NEWS

SKI-ERS OVERWHELMED.

SEVEN BURIED BY AN AVALANCHE: THREE KILLED.

A Reuter message from Zurich this morning stated that a party of ski-ers were overwhelmed by an avalanche yesterday in mountains near Saentis. One woman and two men were completely buried. The other four managed to struggle out.

The bodies of the three who were buried were later recovered after several hours' work.

FATAL MOTOR SMASH.

A middle-aged man, at present unidentified, was killed and three persons, including two children, were injured, when a motor-coach skidded and mounted the pavement at Victoria Dock Road, Canning Town, E., last night.

CHANGING LONDON.

[*Specially drawn for the* SUNDAY TIMES *by Hanslip Fletcher.*

Another portion of London that is undergoing change. The buildings on the left, including Charing Cross Post Office, are to come down almost immediately as part of the plan for rebuilding the island block between Trafalgar Square, the Strand and Duncannon Street. The east side of Trafalgar Square, between the Strand and St. Martin-in-the-Fields, will be occupied by the new South Africa House, which will cost upwards of £300,000.

CHURCH FIRED BY CANDLE.

£100,000 DAMAGE.

CROWD PRAYS IN STREET.

OTTAWA, Saturday.

The Roman Catholic church of Saint Joseph's, one of the largest and most imposing churches in Ottawa, was totally destroyed by fire to-day with a loss which is estimated at nearly 500,000 dollars (£100,000).

The fire was caused by a votive candle which was upset by a child and set light to draperies surrounding a crib of the infant Jesus. A number of worshippers were in the church at the time of the fire. The church had recently been decorated at a cost of £9,000.

During the progress of the fire many members of the church knelt in prayer in the street asking for Divine assistance to save the edifice.—Reuter.

DOG DEVOTION.

AIREDALE'S GUARD AFTER TRAGEDY.

After its companion, an Alsatian dog, had been run over and killed by a motor car at Bassett, Southampton, an Airedale terrier stood on guard over the body throughout Friday night and attacked anyone who attempted to come near.

One man, who tried to coax away the Airedale, had part of his coat torn away by the dog's teeth.

Both dogs belonged to one owner, and had been brought up together.

AN INDEPENDENT U.S. PRESIDENT.

SOCIAL REFORMERS' SCHEME.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

NEW YORK, Saturday.

It may be true, as Professor Dewey, the National Chairman of the League for Independent Political Action asserts, that millions of Americans are disgusted with both major parties in the United States. The movement to establish a third party for the Presidential election of 1932 cannot, however, mature.

The electoral law, as it exists to-day, must be revised to secure such a change as the reformers desire, and that change could not be made in a year or two. Professor Dewey assumes that the new party can be the incarnation of an ideal which he calls "Social planning" as opposed to competitive private interests, but his critics, of the Republican and Democratic organisations alike, argue that such an ideal cannot become the property of a party and can be successfully achieved only in so far as it pervades national thought and obtains an assent which transcends partisan divisions.

As an alternative, it is urged that the law might be changed to make possible the direct election of a presidential candidate independent of party.

Continued from preceding column.

Lord Melchett played in the discussion between the General Council of the T.U.C. and representatives of British industry, said:

"During those discussions Lord Melchett was very sincere in the desire that there should be a better understanding between organised labour and industry. We regret the passing of a great personality, whose influence would have been of inestimable value in implementing the results of the discussions."

Mr. J. H. Pooley, Secretary of the Society of Chemical Industry, said:

"In spite of his multifarious activities in commercial and political spheres, Lord Melchett maintained a great interest in the work and status of the industrial chemist, and was an enthusiastic member of the Society of Chemical Industry, of which he was this year's president.

"This interest was inherited from his father, Dr. Ludwig Mond, who was partly responsible for the founding of the society fifty years ago, and was one of its presidents. Lord Melchett would undoubtedly have been invited to become president earlier, but the society wished to reserve for him the distinction of presiding over the jubilee celebrations in 1931, a circumstance of which he was deeply appreciative. Lord Melchett had contributed freely to the funds of the society, which is a professional body extending throughout the English-speaking world, whose objects are the advancement of the research and theory of chemistry, and, in particular, its relation to industry. On the occasion of his election as president last year he made a strong plea for the unification of all scientific bodies, which was very dear to him."

CANAL RAYS DISCOVERER.

BERLIN, Saturday.

The death is announced here, at the age of 80, of Professor Eugen Goldstein, the physicist, who is famous for his discovery of "Canal rays."—Reuter.

GRAVE ILLNESS OF JOFFRE.

AMPUTATION OF HIS LEFT LEG.

TOO WEAK FOR THIRD OPERATION.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

PARIS, Saturday night.

Following disconcerting rumours which have been current for some weeks past regarding the health of Marshal Joffre, an official bulletin was issued to-day disclosing that his condition is giving rise to acute anxiety.

He has been suffering from inflammation of the arteries, and according to the

MARSHAL JOFFRE.

"Temps" his left leg was amputated a week ago, gangrene having developed. It is stated unofficially that the Marshal's condition is so precarious that he is not expected to live more than a few days.

This morning the following communiqué was issued, signed by Professors Lericheˌ J.-L. Faure, and Labbé, and Doctors Boulin and Fontaine:—

"Marshal Joffre has been suffering for some months from arteritis of the lower limbs, and a sudden aggravation of this illness necessitated urgent surgical intervention. This was done by Professor Leriche, Professor Labbé, and Dr. Boulin.

"After a temporary improvement, which gave great hope, the condition of the Marshal has now become disquieting."

IDENTITY CONCEALED.

The evening bulletin, signed by Professor Leriche and Dr. Boulin, stated:—

"Condition stationary without aggravation; pulse, 75; temperature, 98.3."

[The normal pulse rate is 72 and temperature 98.4.]

It was in accordance with the Marshal's personal wish that no public announcement was previously made on the subject of his illness. Even in the nursing home—of the Frères de St. Jean de Dieu, in the Rue Oudinot—the identity of the distinguished invalid was not generally known for some time.

He had been admitted—again by his personal desire—under an assumed name, in order that his family and friends should alone know of his presence. Prior to his removal to the nursing home an operation had been performed for the amputation of his left foot.

The Marshal, who was in command of the French Army during the first two years of the war, is now in his 79th year.

RIGHT LEG INFECTED.

PARIS, Saturday night.

Marshal Joffre's left leg was amputated below the knee. During the next few days he seemed to be going on well, but last night fresh inflammation was observed.

A further amputation at the thigh would have been performed, but the patient's condition was such that it was feared that he could not stand the shock. The right leg is now infected, although to a lesser degree.—Reuter.

DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY CLAIMED.

PARIS, Saturday.

Diplomatic immunity was claimed by the manager of the Soviet Commercial Agency in Paris to-day in a case before the Paris Arbitration Court when a Mr. Aertzfert claimed £16,000 awarded him in an action brought in an English court against the Soviet Commercial Agency some time ago. It was announced that judgment will be given in eight days.—Central News.

ON FIRE NEAR ADEN.

BRITISH STEAMER IN PERIL.

AMERICAN VESSEL STANDING BY.

ADEN, Saturday.

The British steamer Queenmoor is on fire near Aden. Reports state that there is a serious fire in the coal bunkers. Flames are leaping above the hatches amidships and the bridge is burning.—British United Press.

A Lloyd's message from Aden states:—"The British steamer Queenmoor—Mormugao for Rotterdam—reports by wireless that fire broke out in the cross bunkers, afterwards spreading to cargo in between decks. American motor-ship Jeff Davis standing by. The salvage steamer Preserver has left to render assistance. At 7.15 a.m. the vessel's position was approximately thirty-nine miles east of Aden.

A later message adds that the crew took to the boats. The bridge and accommodation were totally destroyed.

[The Queenmoor (4,862 tons) is registered at Liverpool and owned by the Moor Line Limited (W. Runciman and Co., Ltd., managers). She was built in 1924 at South Shields by J. Readhead and Sons, Limited. The Jeff Davis (6,204 tons) is owned by the United States Shipping Board, and is registered at New Orleans.]

GERMANY'S DEFICIT.

HOPE OF BIGGER YIELD FROM NEW TAXES.

BERLIN, Saturday.

The Reich Treasury receipts in the first two-thirds of the current financial year have amounted to £316,000,000, being £26,000,000 less than the Budget estimate. In November the receipts totalled £32,000,000.

It is hoped that the new taxes will bring in increased receipts during the remaining four months, and thus help to reduce the deficit.—Exchange.

INQUEST COINCIDENCE.

MAN WHO WAS FOREMAN A FORTNIGHT AGO.

Holding an inquest yesterday on Henry Maurice Lewis, 55, a general dealer, of Circus, Minories, who died in St. Bartholomew's Hospital from blood poisoning set up by an injury to his thumb caused while he was cutting bread, the City Coroner (Dr. Waldo) said he recognised the body as that of a man who was a foreman of the jury at the Court about two weeks ago.

The widow complained that her husband was kept waiting in the hospital in agony with his arm uncovered for two hours on Monday before anyone came to see him. When the surgeon did look at him, she declared, he walked away and attended to other patients. She added that four hours elapsed before her husband was operated upon.

Dr. Bradshaw said the man had been asked in the morning to stay in the hospital, but he refused. Then he was asked to come back at five o'clock, when the minor operations were done, but he did not arrive till 6.20 p.m. It would not have made any difference if he had been operated on the moment he came.

The Coroner, recording a verdict of "Accidental death," advised the widow, if she was still dissatisfied, to go to the hospital. He added that it seemed to him to have been the man's own fault that he was not seen earlier.

SWISS WINTER RESORTS.

BERNE, December 27.

To-days weather reports from the winter resorts are as follows:—

Place.	Height in feet. Station.	Slopes.	Ski-ing Temp. Fahr.	Weather.	Depth of Snow in ins. St. : Ski.
Adelboden	4,462	6,430	—	Overcast	4 — 16
Andermatt	4,738	6,857	27	Snowing	12 — Over 40
Arosa	6,089	6,561	19	Snowing	14 — 16
Caux s/Montreux	3,694	5,577	—	Overcast	12 — 24
Château d'Oex	3,209	3,280	36	Overcast	8 — 10
Davos	5,121	7,217	—	Snowing	10 — 36
Les Diablerets	3,773	6,102	28	Overcast	12 — 24
Engelberg	3,359	5,905	—	Cloudy	10 — 28
Flims-Waldhaus	3,773	4,429	28	Heavy snowfall	16 — 28
Grindelwald	3,445	5,249	30	Overcast	8 — 24
Gstaad	3,456	6,332	28	Overcast	6 — 16
Gurnigel	3,806	5,249	36	Cloudy	8 — 16
Kandersteg	3,836	3,837	23	Fine, a few clouds	6 — 10
Kleine Schiedegg	6,772	—	23	Overcast	12 — 16
Klosters	3,904	7,217	27	Heavy snowfall	18 — 36
Lenzerheide-Parpan	4,846	—	23	Snowing	14 — 14
Leukerbad	4,629	7,644	30	Overcast	10 — 18
Montana-Crans	4,987	5,511	34	Cloudy	2 — 4
Morgins	4,396	—	—	Overcast	8 — 8
Mürren	5,413	6,299	25	Cloudy	8 — 14
Pontresina	5,915	6,725	21	Fine, a few clouds	6 — 10
St. Cergue	3,520	5,249	—	Overcast	12 — 20

—Reuter.

ENGLISH PILGRIMS TO ROME.

VATICAN CITY, Saturday.

The Pope to-day received in audience thirty pilgrims belonging to the Catholic Association, led by Father Bys, rector of the English Catholic church of San Silvestro,

VIADUCT DRAMA IN HOLBORN.

STOUT MAN WHO WENT IN FOR SLIMMING.

STRANGE TRAGEDY.

The death of Meyer Henry Hart, aged 30, a boot manufacturer's agent of Anson Road, Cricklewood, who was found injured on the footway in Shoe Lane below Holborn Viaduct, was inquired into by Dr. F. J. Waldo, the City Coroner, yesterday.

Joseph Hart, of Elm Way, Neasden, a brother, said that since August, Hart, who was a stout man, had been slimming by dieting and indulging in swimming and sun bathing. He (witness) thought that this treatment was too rapid, because Hart had lost three or four stone in weight in three months.

The Coroner: You think that he had been fasting too much?—Yes, because his skin was in folds. He cut down his food to the minimum.

Mr. Hart added that his brother had intended to give up his work and office because a man had promised him a big position as secretary. Hart had been worried because the promise had not materialised.

In reply to Mr. Daniel Hopkin, M.P., counsel for the relatives, Mr. Hart said that his brother was financially sound.

Dr. J. R. Beddard, of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, said death was due to the man's injuries. Hart was suffering from gastric trouble, which would have caused him to lose weight. He (witness) did not think that the dieting did the man any harm in view of his condition.

Mr. Hopkin, who said that he himself weighed 14 st. 8 oz., asked the doctor if he (Mr. Hopkin) reduced his weight to 11 st. in a short time it would undermine his constitution.

Dr. Beddard replied that fat in a healthy, active person did not indicate the need for dieting.

The Coroner said there was a certain amount of mystery in the case, and it looked as though Mr. Hart did fall for some reason or other. He recorded an open verdict.

BIGAMY ADMISSION BY MINISTER.

DAUGHTER'S SILENCE.

SARNIA (Ontario), Saturday.

The Rev. Samuel Venmore Williams, aged 49, a Presbyterian minister from England, pleaded guilty here to-day to a charge of bigamy, and was remanded for sentence.

Mr. Williams came to Canada in 1928 after leaving his wife and three children in England. Last year, it is alleged, he remarried here. On returning from a visit to England, he brought out his daughter, aged 17, but at no time did she betray the fact that her mother was still living in England. Intercepted letters, however, aroused the suspicions of the man's Canadian wife.—Reuter.

SHOT AT DAWN.

ANOTHER NEW YORK GANG MURDER.

NEW YORK, Saturday.

Another cold-blooded gang murder was added to New York's long list at dawn to-day, when the proprietor of an "uptown speakeasy" was riddled with seven bullets in his own bar room after a desperate pistol battle with five rivals who resented his operations in "their territory."

The assassins rushed into the place forcing a taxi-driver to enter first as a shield for themselves and fired volley after volley, splintering woodwork and mirrors in the room. The victim was found by the police mortally wounded with a revolver under him.—Reuter.

ALLEGED FRAUD ECHO.

BRITISH APPLICATION FOR EXTRADITION.

NEW YORK, Saturday.

Decision was reserved to-day by the U.S. Commissioner, Mr. Garrett W. Cotter, on the application of the British Government for the extradition, on charges of fraud, of Arthur J. Klein, alias Abraham Jacob Klein, a British subject, who arrived in the United States early in November.

It is alleged by the British authorities that Klein received £22,863 in England during the summer, knowing it to have been obtained by fraudulent representations.—Reuter.

THE LIBERAL PRESS IN EGYPT.

CAIRO, Saturday.

The Liberal Constitutional Party has issued a new paper, "Al Fellah El Masri" (the Egyptian peasant), to replace "El Siassah," which was suspended on Sunday, after two warnings, for publishing an article on a statement of the Prime Minister which had appeared in a London paper, and a cartoon which cast ridicule on Ministers.

The editor of "El Siassah," Dr. Haikal, has been sent for trial for alleged defamation of Ministers.—Reuter.

MINISTER SAVES AUDIENCE.

DASH TO RAISE FIRE ALARM.

THROUGH SPARKS AND DEBRIS.

DRAMATIC END TO AN ENTERTAINMENT.

A fire broke out last night at a boot and shoe factory in the east end of Glasgow at a time when an entertainment was in progress in an adjacent mission hall attended by 300 men, women, and children.

They were unaware of the outbreak until the arrival of a minister, Mr. Charlesworth, who had to fight his way through flying sparks and débris into the hall to warn them of the danger. He mounted the platform and quietly told the people to leave.

On leaving the hall they found that the factory, which belongs to Messrs. Gallery, was a blazing inferno. The flames were then licking the walls of the hall. Shortly afterwards the roof caught fire.

The wind hampered the firemen, and for three hours they fought the flames.

Mrs. MacMillan, wife of the caretaker, refused to leave her little dwelling when warned by the firemen, and throughout the blaze she remained there saving what articles of furniture she could from the running water from the hoses. Mrs. Charlesworth, the minister's wife, assisted her.

The factory, which was one of the largest in the city, was burned out, the damage amounting to many thousands of pounds.

"SOLEMN PLEDGE BETRAYED."

ZIONISTS AND THE GOVERNMENT.

A protest against the "betrayal of a solemn pledge given to our people concerning our historical aspirations as embodied in the Balfour Declaration," was made by the Rev. U. K. Goodbloom, the principal speaker at the opening session in London last night of the thirty-first annual conference of the English Zionist Federation. Delegates from all Zionist societies in the United Kingdom are attending the conference.

Mr. Goodbloom said the declaration of policy with regard to Palestine, as contained in the White Paper, had sorely grieved Zionists, who were waiting impatiently to hear the result of the negotiations now taking place between the Government and their representatives.

"We as Jews and British citizens are in duty bound to protest against an attempt by any Government to repudiate obligations which were solemnly undertaken by representatives of this country on behalf of the whole civilised world as represented in the League of Nations." They would continue to protest against the White Paper, and would not cease until it was entirely withdrawn.

Dr. C. H. Weizmann, in a message, said:—"It is obviously impossible for me to say very much about the negotiations now in progress between representatives of His Majesty's Government and ourselves beyond expressing the hope that as a result of these negotiations the Jewish Agency may be enabled to carry on its work in Palestine free from the tremendous obstacles which have hitherto been placed in its way, and have so obviously handicapped our work for the Jewish National Home."

Mr. Lloyd George sent the following message: "The English Zionist Federation is meeting this year at a critical moment in the history of the Jewish race. It has my cordial wishes in its great task."

Mr. Bennett, the Prime Minister of Canada, wrote: "One cannot but admire the faith and courage which have upheld the Jewish people in their long and arduous pilgrimage towards their National Home. That difficulties have only inspired new determination has been the secret of Jewish achievements throughout the ages. I am sure that in present circumstances the Federation, in close and effective co-operation with the Mandatory Power, will continue its efforts."

MR. J. W. H. T. DOUGLAS

CRICKETING CLERIC'S TRIBUTE.

In the holly and flower decorated parish church at Leyton a service was held yesterday to the memory of Mr. J. W. H. T. Douglas, the former England and Essex cricketer.

The Rev. F. H. Gillingham, the cricketer, in a tribute, said: "John Douglas was loyal to his friends. If ever I had my back to the wall, I would rather have him by my side than almost anybody I know, because I feel he would never have let me down. In the wreck of the Oberon John Douglas might have saved his life, but he went to look for his father, and they perished together. His friends would not have expected him to do anything else."

Prayers were read by the Bishop of Barking, the first lesson was read by Mr. B. K. Castor, secretary of the Essex C.C.C., and the second lesson by General R. B. Colvin, Lord-Lieutenant of Essex. Many county cricketers were present.

IMPERIAL AND FOREIGN ITEMS.

Herr Adolph Rothermundt, artist and art collector, has died at Dresden, aged 82.

Toronto Labour Council have asked the provincial Government not to reduce taxes on racecourses.

The King and Queen of the Belgians have left for Switzerland, where they are to spend several days.

Unprecedented falls of snow have occurred in Northern Spain during the Christmas holidays. Several deaths have been reported from Navarre.

Extensive coffee-smuggling has been discovered in Hamburg Free Port and also on the German-Belgian Frontier. In Hamburg several persons have been arrested.

Otto Lang, a member of the Lang family of Oberammergau and a former member of the cast of the Passion Play, is to lecture in New York next month on the Passion Play.

Children playing at Oebisfelde, in Saxony, placed carbide in a bottle with water, and corked the bottle. It exploded and a nine-year-old boy was so badly cut about the throat that he bled to death in a few minutes.

A family of four adults of Lwow were shot dead while at their Christmas dinner, and a considerable amount of American currency, the property of an emigrant son who returned recently from Canada, was stolen.

A memorial has been erected at Havre over the common grave of the victims of the British hospital ships Galeka and Salta, which were destroyed by mines during the war.

The Colonisation and Land Settlement Department of the Canadian Pacific Railway has under consideration the settlement of sixty families on 14,000 acres of good land between Merville and Oyster River, on Vancouver Island.

Social and Personal

The Queen sent a Christmas present to each child at Service House, Portsmouth.

The Duke of Gloucester attended last evening's performance of Mr. Bertram Mills's circus at Olympia. Prince Arthur of Connaught, accompanied by his son, the Earl of Macduff, and with a party of friends, attended the morning performance. The Maharaja of Bikaner, with suite, was also present.

Prince George will attend a gala midnight performance and party at the Plaza Theatre on January 8, when an unusual entertainment will be given to help the £5,000 appeal for St. Luke's Day Nursery.

The French Ambassador will return to London this week from the Continent.

The Duke of Portland is 73 to-day.

The Marquess of Zetland will return to-day to 19, Arlington Street from Aske, Yorkshire.

Earl Russell will return to London to-morrow after spending Christmas in the country.

Viscountess Ullswater left London yesterday for the British Embassy, Lisbon, on her way to Madeira.

Viscount and Viscountess Hailsham will return to 57, Portland Place from Carters' Corner Place on January 7.

Lady Tweedmouth will return to London from Lisbon early in January.

Elizabeth Lady Cheylesmore will leave 16, Princes Gate on January 3 for Cannes, where she will remain until April.

Lord Hugh Cecil left England on Friday for Madeira for his health. He hopes to return about the end of January.

Lord and Lady Dunsany will leave Bicester to-morrow for Dunsany Castle, County Meath.

Lord Howard of Glossop and Baroness Beaumont will return to 42, Pont Street early this week from Carlton Towers, Yorkshire.

Sir John and Lady Lavery will leave for the South of France early in January.

Sir Malcolm and Lady Robertson will return to London from Switzerland on January 11.

The Hon. Mrs. Piers Legh is chairman of the ball to be held at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, on Tuesday, January 13, in aid of the Royal Northern Hospital. It is hoped to raise the £1,500 needed to complete the endowment of the Rosemary Ednam Ward in the hospital.

The engagement is announced between Lieutenant Roddie Casement, R.N., second son of Rear-Admiral and Mrs. Casement, of Cronroe, Ashford, Co. Wicklow, and Elisabeth Kathleen, third daughter of Sir Bernard and Lady Greenwell, of Marden Park, Godstone. Miss Greenwell is a granddaughter of the late Admiral Sir Leopold McClintock.

The date of the British Empire Union "Lion" ball has been altered from January 27 to Tuesday, February 10.

FUNERALS.

PROFESSOR WIBBERLEY.

The funeral service took place yesterday, at the Church of Our Lady of Victories, High Street, Kensington, of Professor T. Wibberley, the agricultural expert, whose death occurred at his Kensington home last Tuesday.

Professor Wibberley, who was 50 years of age, was famous as a specialist in plant breeding, and it was he who originated the system of intensive arable stock farming which bears his name. He was formerly Harrington Professor of Agriculture at Cork University.

Father William Dillon-Doyle conducted the service. In addition to the family mourners only a few intimate friends were present. The interment followed at the Catholic Cemetery at Kensal Rise.

THE SICK LIST.

MISS MARGARET McMILLAN ILL.

Last night's reports on the condition of invalids:—

Lady Abbot-Anderson (operation for appendicitis): Condition satisfactory.

Mr. W. Henderson, M.P. (lumbago): Comfortable.

Maulana Mohammed Ali (heart trouble): Gathering strength, but still confined to bed.

Lady Apsley (injured while hunting): Much the same.

Miss Jessie Millward: Progressing satisfactorily.

Sir Charles Wilson, former M.P. for Central Leeds: Not such a good night.

Miss Margaret McMillan, the pioneer in the work for the health of children, is in a nursing home at Harrow, suffering from a nervous breakdown.

GOLDEN WEDDING.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Hutchings, of King Street, Bridport, Dorset, celebrated their golden wedding yesterday.

Mr. Hutchings served for many years in the Volunteers and the Fire Brigade.

GOLF PROFESSIONAL'S LOSS.

For the second time this year, the shop of Willie Ritchie, golf professional to the Addington Club, near Croydon, was entered by burglars during the Christmas holidays. Twenty pairs of golf shoes and a quantity of leather golf jackets were stolen, the total loss being estimated at £60.

PICKWICK IN PICCADILLY.

Lovers of Dickens and the unusual—that is, most people—will find plenty to interest them at the Trocadero during the next few days.

The salon adjoining the restaurant has been transformed into a Dickens Room. The walls have been covered with canvas on which are painted scenes from Dickens' novels. Mr. Pickwick on the ice, Scrooge preparing for bed, and episodes from "The Old Curiosity Shop" are depicted.

LESS TRAM AND BUS TRAVEL.

Official returns of forty of the principal municipal tramway and omnibus undertakings in the United Kingdom, as compiled by the "Tramway and Railway World" for the week ended December 5, give total receipts of £408,560, or £13,343 less than in the corresponding week of last year.

The aggregate receipts for thirty-six weeks amounted to £15,196,040, an increase of £96,088 over the corresponding period of last year.

Receipts on the L.C.C. trams from April 1 to December 24 were £3,177,580, compared with £3,219,504 in the corresponding period of last year.

The charge for Society Announcements on this page is one guinea for three lines or less and 5s. for each line after. A line contains about seven words. All announcements are subject to editorial approval, and should be addressed to the Social Editor, "Sunday Times," 135, Fleet Street, E.C.4.

Obituary.

HEROINE OF THE BOER WAR.

BRAVED RIFLE FIRE FOR WATER.

HEADMASTER WHO WAS BALKAN ENVOY.

A woman's gallant act during the Boer War is recalled by the death in her 70th year of Mrs. Jane Montgomery Campbell, wife of Captain A. Montgomery Campbell, of Rudloe Park, Box, Wiltshire.

Mrs. Campbell equipped six mule wagons and went out to South Africa accompanied only by a maid, now an invalid, as a medical unit. They were in Ladybrand Hospital on the Basutoland border. When the Boers attacked the town the water failed in the hospital and Mrs. Campbell ran the gauntlet of the cross-fire of two armies in order to obtain supplies, which she carried in buckets on a yoke from a well a mile and a half distant. Bullets hit the load, but she escaped unhurt. With characteristic bravery she undertook the perilous journeys, because she thought that, whereas a man would certainly draw the enemy fire, a woman might escape.

For her brave deed, Mrs. Campbell was made a Lady of Grace of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem.

She was a daughter of the late Mr. George Culley, of Fowberry Tower, Northumberland.

MR. ALEXANDER DEVINE.

Mr. Alexander Devine, headmaster of Clayesmore School, Winchester, died at Northwood Park, Winchester, on Friday, it was announced yesterday. He was 65.

When he was only 21 he was engaged in social work as founder of the Lads' Club Movement, and he was the first honorary missionary to boy first offenders at the police courts after the passing in 1887 of the First Offenders Act. He originated the universities camps for public school boys.

While a journalist he was a special correspondent at the Olympic Games at Athens in 1906 and during 1912-13 in the Balkan War. In co-operation with the Princesses Xenia and Vera of Montenegro he organised the relief of interned Montenegrin prisoners in Austria, and he also did splendid work for the relief of Montenegrin refugees in France, Switzerland, and Italy in 1917.

He also acted as honorary Plenipotentiary Minister for Montenegro in London, and had several Montenegrin decorations. His books deal with Montenegro, public schools, and schoolboys. His hobbies included the exploration of historical Paris, on which he was an authority.

MRS. STANLEY STUBBS.

Mrs. Stanley Stubbs, who has died in London from bronchitis, enjoyed a considerable reputation as a singer and a golfer. She was known as the "Kentish Nightingale" and with her sister, Mrs. Hallowes, and two brothers formed a Kentish family—the Robertsons—who were famous for their singing many years ago.

Mrs. Stubbs, whose voice had a remarkable compass, sang before Queen Victoria on many occasions, and occasionally the Princess Beatrice would act as her accompanist.

As a golfer, Mrs. Stubbs took part in the second British Ladies' Championship, which was decided at Littlestone (Kent) in 1894. In 1901 she reached the semi-final round of the championship at Aberdovey. In 1900 she was elected captain of the Kent County Ladies' team, a position which she held for many years.

MR. E. E. GENNER.

Mr. E. E. Genner, Fellow of Oriel College, Oxford, who was injured last Wednesday when cycling from his home in Crick Road, Oxford, to the London Road Hospital, Headington, to attend a meeting of the hospital sub-committee of the Oxford Public Assistance Committee, of which he was a member, and who died at the Acland Home, Oxford, is believed to have been knocked down by a car.

The inquest, which was opened on Friday, was adjourned after evidence of identification until to-morrow.

A great classical teacher, Mr. Genner, who was 53, was educated at King Edward's School, Birmingham, and Balliol College, Oxford. In 1899 he was elected to a Prize Fellowship at Magdalen College, and soon after was appointed assistant tutor in classics at Jesus College and made a Fellow in 1903. He was appointed in 1927 to an official Fellowship at Oriel as Lecturer in Classics. He took a prominent part in the Nonconformist life of Oxford, and was for many years a local preacher.

MR. GUY H. LINTOTT.

According to a cable received by his family at Horsham (Sussex), Mr. Guy H. Lintott, a former Cambridge University undergraduate and well-known golfer, died at Las Palmas (Canary Islands) on December 23, following an accidental fall. He was 25 years of age.

Mr. Lintott was at Felsted School when he reached the final round of the first Boys' Amateur Golf Championship at Ascot in 1921, and was beaten at the thirty-seventh hole by A. D. D. Mathieson. Two years later he represented England against Scotland in the first Boys' International Golf Match at Dunbar, and won his game. On going up to Cambridge, Mr. Lintott gained some distinction as an athlete as well as a golfer, and when, during the October term of 1925, he won all his matches on behalf of the Cambridge University Golf Club, there was every reason to expect that he would gain a Blue for both golf and athletics.

As the result of a motor accident, however, Mr. Lintott lost a foot, which was amputated, and his career as a runner was cut short. He resumed golf, however, and overcame his disability so that he competed in several recent competitions of the Mannings Heath Golf Club as a scratch player.

THE REV. R. A. HAY HAY.

The Rev. Richard Arthur Hay Hay, Vicar of St. Philip's, Cheltenham, died suddenly at the residence of his sister at Richmond on Friday evening. He had gone to London to conduct the funeral service of the Rev. B. W. Seton, Vicar of Otahuhu, New Zealand, the son of Cheltenham friends, who had died on Tuesday.

Mr. Hay was formerly Sub-Dean of Brisbane Cathedral, Australia. He had also been Chaplain of the Derbyshire Royal Infirmary and Vicar of St. Andrew's, Derby. His wife died suddenly in London early this year.

DINNER IN A BARN.

Mr. Samuel Wallrock, the horticulturist, who has just completed the restoration of an old Tudor barn on his estate at the Manor House, Stanmore, entertained his staff with their wives to dinner last night in the barn.

The barn is dated 1500, and according to archæological experts, is one of the most perfect examples of the period.

ST. ANDREWS APPOINTMENTS.

In recognition of distinguished service to the University of St. Andrews as Lecturers, Dr. David Lennox has been appointed Reader in Forensic Medicine and Dr. W. L. Burgess Reader in Public Health. The following other appointments have been made:—

Dr. H. G. S. Millin, Lecturer in Radiology and Electrical Therapeutics.

Mr. David Jack, M.A., B.Sc., Ph.D., a Lecturer in Natural Philosophy in the United College.

Mr. James Ferguson, M.B. Ch.B., a Tutor in Anæsthetics.

The Senatus Academicus has appointed Dr. R. R. Marett, LL.D., Rector of Exeter College, Oxford, as Gifford Lecturer for 1931-32.

SUNDAY CINEMAS IN SCOTLAND.

OBJECTORS APPLY FOR INTERDICT.

COURT ACTION AGAINST MAGISTRATES.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

EDINBURGH, Saturday.

A development has arisen in the Edinburgh controversy about the opening of the cinema theatres on three Sunday nights early in the New Year in order to assist the Royal Infirmary bi-centenary appeal for an extension fund of £500,000.

The magistrates unanimously granted permission, and it is understood that in order to do so they varied one of their own by-laws. The Protestant churches protested, and a deputation waited upon the magistrates, urging them to reconsider their action. The magistrates, by ten votes to eight, confirmed their previous decision.

COUNSEL CONSULTED.

The next step was a letter to the Town Clerk from the Lord's Day Observance Association of Scotland, which contained the following passages:—"So strong has been the feeling created that this Association and others interested have consulted eminent counsel on the subject, and have been advised that the action of the magistrates is ultra vires in respect that the permission to give Sunday performances on the Lord's Day is contrary to the law of Scotland. It has been decided that legal action must be taken as a last resort."

The magistrates were therefore urged to delay the issue of the amended licences until the citizens had had an adequate opportunity of expressing their views on the subject, but their only reply was to adhere to their former decision.

It has, therefore, been resolved by the Association forthwith to raise an action of Declarator and interdict against the magistrates in the Court of Session. The court is at present up for the Christmas vacation, but it resumes on January 6, and the first of the Sunday cinema performances is not due to take place until January 18.

A POOR VINTAGE YEAR.

THE WINES OF 1930.

With the solitary exception of Spain, all the wine-producing countries of Western Europe report poor crops, and, so far as vintage wines are concerned, 1930 will find little place in the wine lists of future years.

Owing to the bad weather which prevailed in the majority of districts where grapes are grown, the quantity of wine produced is well below the average, and in most cases the quality also is not up to the required standard. As a result, it is expected that prices will be raised, particularly in the case of clarets, for which 1930 was an unusually poor year.

The wet weather extended as far south as Spain, and in the Jerez district the quantity of sherry secured is unfavourable. The finer wines are produced in the clay district, and the quality of sherry obtained there is regarded as very good.

Except for comparatively small quantities, such as that recently sampled by the Prince of Wales at the Spanish Club in London, sherry is not shipped and bottled as a vintage wine. Instead, it is placed with the produce of previous years of the same grade, and from this the wines are obtained for the market in this country. As a consequence, the good wine secured this year will improve the blend, and this fact is welcomed both by the shippers in Spain and importers here owing to the increased demand in England, where sherry is resuming its former popularity.

SCOTTISH DIVORCES.

DECREASE ON LAST YEAR'S FIGURES.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

EDINBURGH, Saturday.

The Scottish divorce statistics, which are published here to-day, show a decrease of fifty-eight in the number of cases disposed of in the Court of Session, which is the only tribunal in Scotland with jurisdiction in divorce.

The number of cases which came before the court was 482, as against 540 last year, and is the smallest number since 1926. It was at the end of that year that the Judicial Proceedings Act came into force, and the steady increase in cases during the next three years was naturally attributed to the fact that that measure covers the court proceedings in divorce with the cloak of secrecy.

The decrease this year may be attributed to the dull times, which have rendered people unable to meet the expense of litigation. Of the 482 cases dealt with, only in twenty-seven was divorce refused. Adultery was the ground of action in 251 instances, and desertion in 231. The husband raised the proceedings in 208 actions, and the wife in 274.

"ROUGH RIDERS'" REUNION.

It is intended to hold a reunion dinner of "The Rough Riders" (City of London Yeomanry) on January 8, 1931. All who have ever served in the regiment are earnestly invited to make a special effort to be present. Tickets can be obtained from G. W. Cheesman, Markmerrow, The Ridgeway, Guildford.

2,000 *MILES TO MARRY.*

Professor W. F. Mainland, of Winnipeg University, who arrived at Liverpool from Canada on Christmas Eve, in the liner Duchess of Atholl, was, on Christmas Day, married in London to Miss Clarice Brewer.

With his bride, the professor sailed for Canada yesterday in the liner Minnedosa.

HIGH PEAK HUNT.

The Christmas meet of the High Peak Hunt was held at Bakewell yesterday. The Duchess of Devonshire, whose eldest daughter, Lady Maud Baillie, is one of the Joint Masters, brought members of her House Party at Chatsworth to Rutland Square to see the meet.

Many of the grandchildren of the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire, including the Earl of Burlington, Lord Andrew Cavendish, Miss A. Mackintosh, Miss Caroline Macmillan, and Miss Stuart; and two of Lady Maud Baillie's children in green hunting costumes, with the colours of the High Peak Hunt, Miss Judith and Master Peter Baillie, followed the hunt.

MASTER MALAPROP AT HARROW.

Some "howlers" from Harrow School examination papers are given in the last issue of the Harrow School magazine, under the heading of "Master Malaprop." Among them are the following:—

Pallas Athene was the principal caretaker in Athens.

The Children of Israel completely masticated the inhabitants of Jericho.

The Israelite were always breaking God's laws, so he wrote them on two tables of stone, which could not be broken.

Pompeii was overwhelmed by an eruption of saliva from the Vatican.

The Romans were so glutinous that they took emetics with their dinner.

The Pope sent Luther a Papal Legate, but he tore it up and never read it.

Addison was the founder of "The Tatler" and "The Sketch," according to Master Malaprop, who also asseverates that if the Forth Bridge were to collapse they would build a fifth.

WOMAN'S ESTATE FOR CHARITY.

NEARLY £39,000 TO BE DIVIDED.

TEACHER'S LEGACIES TO A HOSPITAL.

Practically the whole of her property was left to charitable and philanthropic objects by the will of Mrs. Isabel Lester Howard, of Old Place, Great Stanmore, Middlesex, whose estate has been sworn at £39,134, with net personalty £35,591. Specific bequests to charitable objects amounted to about £15,000, and in addition to a large portion of the residuary estate left to be applied by the executors, the bequests include:—

£2,000 to Queen Mary's Hospital, East End.
£1,000 to the Cancer Hospital, Fulham.
£1,000 to the Royal Free Hospital.
£500 to Queen Mary's Hospital for Limbless Men.
£500 to the Cancer Research Fund.
£500 to the Children's House, Bow, E.
£400 to the Ladies' Benevolent Association.
£400 to the Governesses' Benevolent Institution.
£300 each to the Maternity Charity and District Nurses Home, Queen Charlotte's Maternity Hospital, the London Hospital, and the Timber Trades Benevolent Institution.
£200 each to the Cancer Ward of the Middlesex Hospital, Charing Cross Hospital, the Hospital for Sick Children, Gt. Ormond St., the Queen's Hospital for Women, Hackney Road; the Royal Waterloo Hospital, the Homes for Little Boys, Farningham; Poplar Hospital, the Waifs and Strays, Kennington; the Musicians' Aid Society, Reedham Orphanage, the Royal London Ophthalmic Hospital, St. John's Hospital for Diseases of the Skin, and the Old Home Hostel,

and a large number of minor bequests to similar institutions.

The residue of the property is left to the executors to dispose of among friends and acquaintances and for charitable purposes in accordance with her known wishes.

TO TEACH EURHYTHMICS.

Estate valued at £70,647 gross with net personalty £16,794 was left by Mr. Percy Broadbent Ingham, of Oakhill Avenue, Hampstead, an underwriter and director of the London School of Dalcroze Eurhythmics. He left

£200 to the Dalcroze Society.
£500 to Alice Webber, secretary of the Dalcroze School.
£200 to Dorothy Howard, assistant secretary there.
£200 to Mrs. Payne, housekeeper there,

and various bequests to clerks and servants. On the death of his wife he left an annuity of £250 to Alice Webber, and subject to other bequests the ultimate residue as to

One-fourth to the First Church of Christ, Scientist, Sloane Square, S.W., for the sick poor, and three-fourths to the Dalcroze Society, if then in existence, or, if not, for the teaching of the Dalcroze method.

In the event of the lapsing of these gifts through any cause, the ultimate residue is to go to the Corporation of Lloyds for the benefit of clerks employed there, but should the Corporation not be in existence or decline the legacy, the ultimate residue is to go to the Crown for the reduction of the National Debt.

FORMER MASTER CUTLER.

A former master cutler, Mr. James Neill, of Carsick, Sheffield, head of James Mill and Co., Ltd., left £170,432, with net personalty £162,135.

FOR HOSPITAL BEDS.

Two legacies of £1,050 to endow beds or cots in Dundee Royal Infirmary are bequeathed by the will of Mr. James Morris Brown, of Lochee, Dundee, a retired teacher, who left personal estate in Great Britain valued at £4,276. The first is in memory of his daughter, Jane Rollo Brown, and the second to the memory of his wife, Isabella. It is a condition that the cots shall be placed adjoining one another in a ward for women. Subject to other bequests, the residue of the estate, estimated at between £800 and £900, is left to the Dundee Royal Infirmary.

OTHER WILLS.

	GROSS VALUE.
WILLIAM JEMMETT DAWES, of Tollwood, Jarvis Brook, Sussex (net personalty £22,011)	£22,221
FRANCIS PHILIP MIDDLETON, of Appenzell, Adlington, Lancs (net personalty £19,619)	21,543

APE'S "FRENCH LEAVE."

THRILL AND PRESENTS AT THE ZOO.

By OUR ZOO CORRESPONDENT.

Christmas is usually an uneventful time for the Zoo, but on Christmas Eve, thanks to Jack, the largest and most powerful of the chimpanzees, the menagerie experienced the best thrill it has known for years. For the ape celebrated Christmas by escaping from captivity.

A few minutes before closing-time a young keeper was shutting up the ape for the night when he accidentally touched the wrong lever, and instead of closing the door of Jack's sleeping apartment he opened the door of the exhibition den. Before he realised his mistake the chimpanzee was loose in the Gardens. Keepers at once gave chase, but Jack was infected with the spirit of Christmas, and though he seemed in an amiable mood he mocked his pursuers and led them round and round the grounds.

After a time he tired and decided to follow his favourite keeper back to captivity, but unfortunately, just as all was thought to be going well, something frightened the ape. He then lost his head, jumped a hedge and disappeared into Regent's Park.

Eventually he arrived at the south gate of the menagerie, where he met the Curator of Mammals, Mr. Seth-Smith, face to face. Jack stopped, placed his hands on Mr. Seth-Smith's shoulders, as though wishing him a Merry Christmas, and then walked back meekly to his cage and captivity.

The Zoo received two Christmas presents. One was a young African leopard, and the other a collection of animals sent from Malay, consisting of phalangers (small squirrel-like marsupials), lories (medium-sized parrots from Australia), four cases of snakes, and two cases of lizards.

TO VISIT U.S. PRISONS.

Mr. Alexander Patterson, Inspector of Prisons, left Southampton in the Mauretania yesterday on a tour of inspection of American prisons on behalf of the Home Office.

"My tour will take me to Sing Sing," said Mr. Patterson, "and I shall spend two weeks in Chicago. Altogether I expect to inspect between fifty and one hundred prisons."

MUMMERS' 130 YEARS' RECORD.

Among Christmas-time festivities at Alderley Park, Lord Stanley's seat, are performances by a troupe of mummers with a remarkable history. Founded 130 years ago by eight brothers named Barber, the troupe still consists of members of that family.

The mummers are always invited to appear at tenants' gatherings, and they have appeared before many distinguished visitors to Alderley Park, including the late Lord Oxford.

TOURISTS' REUNIONS.

The Workers' Travel Association, which was founded ten years ago with no capital but with a desire that those engaged in industry should enjoy foreign travel held its annual reunion at the Albert Hall last night. Over 4,000 people were present.

The "turnover" of the association during the past year has been £250,000, although the capital is still very small. The membership is about 35,000.

Similar gatherings to that in London were held in the provinces. Meeting-places were provided where those who desired could renew friendships made during the tours conducted by the association.

SUNSHINE AND SHOWERS.

TEMPERATURE NORMAL TO MILD.

STRONG LOCAL WINDS

ENGLAND.—Wind south-west or west, fresh, strong locally; showers or occasional rain; bright intervals; rather mild or normal temperature.

SCOTLAND. — Wind between south-west or north-west, strong, perhaps gale locally at times; showers and brighter intervals; normal temperature.

WALES.—Wind westerly, fresh, stronger locally; showers or occasional rain; bright intervals.

ENGLISH CHANNEL. — Wind south-west or west, fresh or strong; showers or occasional rain and bright intervals; sea rather rough or moderate.

AIR PASSAGES.—Squally winds between S.W. and W.; 15-25 m.p.h. at the surface; 30-40 m.p.h. at 2,000 feet. Squally showers with variable cloud amount. Visibility 6-12 miles, except during showers.

By OUR METEOROLOGICAL EXPERT.

Like so many of its predecessors, the last Saturday of 1930 was marked by stormy and unsettled conditions over most of Britain. The heavy rain and snow of Boxing Day were followed at night by a short fine spell, but morning found the whole country within the boundaries of another large and vigorous Atlantic cyclone.

Violent southerly gales sprang up in the north, attaining an average velocity of sixty miles an hour in the Shetlands and fifty miles an hour on the Scottish mainland. Though the primary storm centre remained beyond the north-west coast, its rain belt stretched southward to the Channel, and as this passed eastward during the day nearly all districts had several hours of wet weather. Thunder and lightning occurred locally in the north.

In the west steady rain ceased before midday, and in many western regions the afternoon was mainly fine and bright; this improvement spread eastward later, the skies clearing over London and the Home Counties in time to allow a few gleams of sunshine before dusk fell.

UNSEASONABLE WARMTH.

The air supply in the forefront of the cyclone was drawn from the neighbourhood of the Azores with the result that unseasonable wid-winter warmth became general. Temperature mounted to between 53 deg. and 55 deg. at a number of places, and at Kew the 1 p.m reading of 52 deg. was 10 deg. above normal. It had not been equalled since November 25, and was only 2 deg. short of the figure registered at the same hour on July 29 last.

On the whole, December has been rather colder than usual so far, though there has been little severe frost and not much snow. The month will be memorable for its persistent gloom in London; up to the present the sun has shone for only ten to eighteen hours in the suburbs and for less than five hours in some central districts. Yet parts of the South Coast have enjoyed from fifty to sixty sunny hours, and the Isle of Wight even more.

December has not yet given London its ordinary share of rain, but in many northern regions of Britain it is proving the fifth wet month on end.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Frederick Lee, aged 54, of Craster Road, Brixton Hill, was taken ill in an omnibus yesterday, and died before reaching hospital.

A Kirkwall message yesterday states that for the second successive day a southerly gale prevented the mail steamer from crossing for the Orkney mails.

Miss Amy Johnson, C.B.E., is to speak to-morrow at the first of the Royal Empire Society's Christmas lectures for children at the Hotel Victoria, at 3 p.m.; her subject will be "My Flight to Australia."

Lewis Savage (58), a jeweller of Old Kent Road, was found dead, hanging in the basement of his shop.

A number of cattle were rescued yesterday when fire broke out in the farm buildings at Hammond Hall Farm, Potter Row, Bucks. The fire burned for ten hours. The farm belongs to Capt. Ivor Stewart-Liberty, a nephew of the late Sir Arthur Liberty, founder of the well-known London firm.

Miss Susan Lawrence, M.P., left Southampton yesterday for a lecture in the United States and Canada.

Michael O'Donnell, 40, an ex-Royal Irish Constabulary pensioner, was killed by a bus at Ardpatrick (Co. Limerick).

A verdict of "Accidental death" was returned at an inquest on Mrs. Florence Amber, of Trowbridge, who was fatally injured by a motor-car on Christmas Day.

The water supply was cut off from many houses near Christ Church, Hampstead, last night, as the result of a collapse of the roadway in Grove Place, a hole seven feet in diameter and six feet deep suddenly appearing in a carriage way.

A man who rode up on a bicycle last night broke the window of Messrs. J. Nelke, Ltd., jewellers, of Terminus Place, Victoria, stole a diamond ring valued at £130, and made his escape on the bicycle.

Martin Jarman, 53, a patient at St. Alfege Hospital, Greenwich, fell forty feet from one of the ward balconies yesterday, and was killed. He was a street trader, and had been in the hospital for some months.

BURIED IN HER ROSE GARDEN.

Mrs. Helen Stewart Hornby Lewis, of Danesfield Park, Marlow, who died in London on Tuesday, was buried yesterday in her own rose garden at Danesfield Park by the side of her husband, who was buried there at his own request when he died four years ago.

MRS. BRUCE'S FLIGHT.

In a recent reference in the SUNDAY TIMES to the Hon. Mrs. Victor Bruce's air journey round the world, she was said to be piloting a Moth aeroplane. Her machine is, in fact, not a Moth, but a Blackburn Bluebird light aeroplane, with side-by-side seating.

ACCOUNTANTS FOR R.A.F.

The Air Ministry announce that an examination will be held in the latter part of March, under the scheme inaugurated in 1924 for the entry into the Accountant Branch of the Royal Air Force of qualified and experienced civil accountants. About five vacancies are likely to be available. The age limits are 22 to 26. The competition will be held in London by the Civil Service Commissioners.

Application should be made to the Secretary, Air Ministry (S.7), Kingsway, London, W.C.2.

GALLEON AT MUSEUM.

The authorities at the Science Museum, South Kensington, have just finished a model, complete in all details, of one of Queen Elizabeth's great ships.

The model, which is six feet in length, is fully equipped with sails, and these have been artificially stiffened while they were actually bellying out in a wind. This process has produced an unusually real appearance, for the strain produced by each rope on the canvas can be clearly seen.

The plans on which the model is based and also all details as to masts and rigging have been obtained from manuscripts which Samuel Pepys the Diarist collected nearly two hundred and fifty years ago, when he intended to write a history of the Royal Navy, and which are still preserved in his library at Magdalene College, Cambridge.

Send for 132 pp. Catalogue of
SALE BARGAINS
A book packed with bargains from all parts of the House. Men's, Women's and Children's Wear. Fashions. Furniture and Household Equipment. *Post free on request*

Barker Sale
BEGINS TUESDAY!

THE year's greatest opportunity! The Barker Sale is a National event awaited by hundreds of thousands of Britishers. Its magnitude may be judged by the fact that two large sale catalogues, with a total circulation of nearly a million copies, as well as a host of spaces in the National Press, are used to acquaint customers with a selection of the wonderful Sale bargains. Prices are generally lower than pre-war, and quality of merchandise much better. Compare this page!

Special Value!
LDST5. A splendid make of all wool BLANKETS made from entirely new wool, beautifully clean and nicely raised, very soft in finish, with blue line border.
Size: 60 x 80 in. *Post 9d.* SALE PRICE, per pair. **15/11**
Size: 76 x 93 inches. SALE PRICE, per pair, **25/9**
Size: 83 x 98 inches. SALE PRICE, per pair, **30/-**

Special Value in
SHEETS

LDST6.—BRITAIN'S GREATEST SHEET VALUE.—A sheet that has come through a wonderful test. One of the largest contracts placed by Barkers for Cotton Sheets enables them to give such wonderful value. This sheeting has been tested specially by the Manchester Chamber of Commerce in the bleached state for quality and breaking strain. The cloth is exceptionally strong and durable, the breaking strain on the warp being equal to 249 lbs. and the weft 269 lbs. ... ... SALE PRICE, per pair **10/-**
Hemmed.—Cut size 70 x 108. Post 9d.

HEMMED.			HEMSTITCHED.		
63 x 108	SALE PRICE, per pair (*Post 9d.*)	**8/11**	70 x 108	SALE PRICE, per pair (*Post 9d.*)	**11/-**
90 x 108	" " *Post 9d.*)	**14/9**	Hand Drawn Thread Hemstitched. 80 x 108	SALE PRICE, per pair (*Post 9d.*)	**13/9**
80 x 108	" " per pair (*Post 9d.*)	**12/9**	90 x 108	" " (*Post 9d.*)	**15/9**

LDST4. THE GREATEST BARGAIN EVER OFFERED IN TOWELS. A Cream Linen Pile Turkish Towel that is specially recommended to those who enjoy a friction towe with a thick pile. Will give nearly a lifetime's wear. size 20 x 43 in. *Post 4d.* **3/6**
SALE PRICE, each

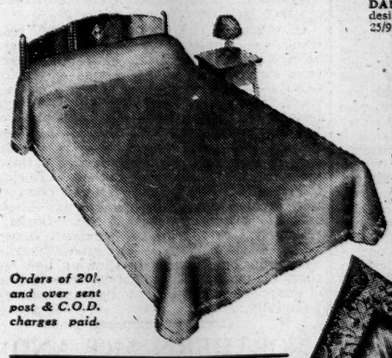
LDST 3. "KENBAR" (Regd.) WHITE TURKISH TOWELS. Heavy crisp quality that is a pleasure to use. Hemmed Size 24 x 48 in. *Post 3d.* **1/9½**
SALE PRICE each
Per doz. *post free*, for **21/-**
Size 27 x 52 in., *post 3d.*, each **2/3½**
Per doz., *post free*, for **27/-**
Size 30 x 54 in., *post 3d.*, each **2/6½**
Per doz., *post free* for **30/-**
Bath Sheets of same quality, size 40 x 70 in., *post 6d.*, each **4/11**
Size 48 x 78 in., *post 6d.*, each **6/9**
Save 25 per cent. on these towels.

LDST1. 400 doz. only. LESS THAN PRE-WAR PRICE. HEMSTITCHED IRISH LINEN PILLOW CASES. A super fine quality of linen pi low case. Hand drawn thread hemstitched corners of cases eyeletted for extra strength. Housewife style or with soft linen buttons. Usually 6/11 each **3/11**
(*Post 2d.*). SALE PRICE
Six post free for **23/6**.
Save **3/-** each on these cases.

LDST8. IRISH LINEN SHEETS. A standard quality that is still further reduced in price. Although the price is down the quality of this sheet remains. Beautifully bleached. Hand-drawn thread hemstitch. Size 70 x 108 ins.
SALE PRICE, per pair **16/11**
Post 9d.
90 x 108 ins. *Post free.* Per pair **23/11**

LINEN SALON SECOND FLOOR

LDST2. 500 doz. Fine heavy make of DOUBLE DAMASK TABLE NAPKINS. In six splendid designs. 24 in. square. Usually 25/9. *Post 9d.* **18/11**
SALE PRICE, per doz.
Save **6/10** on these napkins.



LDST7.
FINE ONE-PIECE COLOURED LINEN BEDSPREADS.
A favourable contract enables Barkers once again to offer to customers these beautiful washing spreads. Made with hemstitched borders and dyed to Barkers own delightful shades of Rose, Saxe, Orange, Helio, Green and Gold. Single Bed Size
SALE PRICE, each **7/11**
Post 6d. 2 for **15/6** *Post 9d.*
Double Bed Size
SALE PRICE, each **10/6**
Post 6d. 2 for **20/-**

Orders of 20/- and over sent post & C.O.D. charges paid.

BARKERS "Kenbar" DOWN QUILT
(LDST10)
Made specially for Barkers by Messrs. Booth & Fox.
An offer only possible through a huge contract in best quality printed sateens, together with the fact that Booth and Fox are their own purifiers of down. Made in French style with wide panel of sateen to tone. The excellent quality of down and the fullness of the quilts are specially worthy of note. 1. Design as sketch. Jacobean. In colours: Rose, Saxe, Black, Green, Gold, Beige. 2. Rose and Bird design. In colours: Rose, Saxe Blue, Green, Fawn, Golden Brown, Black. 3. Paisley design. In colours: Saxe, Rose, Beige, Green, Navy, Black and Helio. Black and Rose effect.
Single Bed Size, SALE PRICE **26/11** *Carriage free.*
Double Bed Size, SALE PRICE **35/9** *Carriage free.*
DOWN QUILT SALON SECOND FLOOR

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AUSTRALIA TO ENGLAND.

NINE DAYS' DASH BY CAPT. MATTHEWS.

TO BEGIN NEXT THURSDAY.

ATTEMPT ON FLIGHT RECORD.

SYDNEY, Saturday.

Captain F. R. Matthews, the English airman who flew from England to Australia last October, left Sydney at noon to-day for Darwin.

He plans to leave Darwin on Thursday morning next for London, which he hopes to reach in nine days, and thus beat the record for a flight between England and Australia set up by the Australian flier, Air-Commodore Kingsford Smith in a little over ten days last October.—British United Press.

[Captain Matthews intends to fly his original Puss Moth machine. Flying day and night, his route, according to present plans, will be from Darwin to Koepang, Sourabaya, Singapore, Rangoon, Calcutta, Bushire, Aleppo, Sofia, or Belgrade, and London.]

GRAMOPHONE MUSIC.

MOZART'S G MINOR STRING QUINTET.

Even some of the most accomplished and catholic-minded of musicians are known to excel in interpreting music of some one particular type. If there is a composer in relation to whom the Léner Quartet may be said to be heard at their very best, his name is Mozart. The arrival from Columbia of an album containing the work numbered K 516 (discs Nos. LX 61-4: eight sides), performed by this famous organisation and L. D'Oliveira (2nd viola), is therefore an event to hail with delight.

For, to many, this is their favourite example of Mozart's chamber music. Its basic emotions have their parallel in the G minor Symphony, and it can hardly be an accident that the key signatures are the same. Some will think that he touched higher eloquence on the larger canvas; on the other hand, many will consider this Quintet unapproachable for its delicate and subtle expression.

If one says that the reading and the recording are here, alike, superb, one leaves little to add. But it is perhaps permissible to draw attention to the manner in which the tragic mood (for it is no less) is sustained and intensified, movement by movement, beyond the Adagio, which is of almost unbelievable beauty, right into the long and deeply impressive introduction to the final Rondo; and is only then allowed to dissolve. This is interpretation in the grand manner.

ORCHESTRA, AND OPERA.

There is only one purely orchestral record in the present batch. This is Saint-Saëns's "Le Rouet d'Omphale" (H.M.V. No. D 1704: 2 sides), played by the Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra of New York, with Dr. Mengelberg in command. It is very beautifully dovetailed, the deft instrumentation coming out with signal fidelity; a fact which makes one regret the more that it is not played in a lighter and more lively spirit. There is a fine record of Wagnerian opera. Friedrich Schorr, with the London Symphony Orchestra, under Albert Coates, contributes (H.M.V. No. D 1866) a masterly reading of Hans Sachs's cobbling song from "Die Meistersinger"—"Jerum! Jerum!"—and of "Blick' ich umher," from Act II. of "Tannhäuser." His sonority and dramatic expression make these completely satisfying.

SONGS.

No fewer than six songs are contributed for Columbia by Dame Clara Butt. No. PX 3 bears "Husheen" (with piano) and "Yonder" (with piano and organ); both are ballads of sentiment, sung with highly sentimental intent. Sentimental, too, indeed, quasi-religious in their fervour, are "A Song of Praise" and "For a Birthday" (No. PB 8). No. PB 9 has "The Rosary" (with piano, organ, and bell effects) and "L'Angelus" (with organ and bell effects); admirers will be tempted to say Dame Clara has done nothing better. Another contralto with a powerful, true, but not very seductive vocal quality—Miss Marion Anderson—is heard in two songs from Saint-Saëns's opera, "Samson et Delilah" ("O, love from thy power" and "Softly Awakes my Heart"). These are orchestrally accompanied, under Lawrance Collingwood (H.M.V. No. C 2047).

MENUHIN; AND TWO PIANISTS.

Among instrumental soloists, pride of place may justly be given to the golden-fingered boy violinist, Yehudi Menuhin. For H.M.V. (No. DB 1,295) he has played, with Louis Persinger at the piano, the delicious Sarabande and Tambourin by Leclair (arranged by Sarasate); and the Adagio from Mozart's concerto in G minor. There is not a blemish on the technique in either; and both sound supremely fresh and natural. In fact, as when listening to Menuhin direct, one has yet to put one's finger on any sign of those dubious qualities of precocity and sophistication commonly found in performers who have attained such skill so early in life. Two pianists display their virtuosity—Niedzielski, in a "Legende" of Rozycki, and the Strauss waltz, "Thousand and One Nights," which really deserves more temperate treatment (H.M.V. No. C 1,993); and Vladimir Horowitz, in Liszt's "Valse Oubliée" and Dohnányi's "Capriccio" in F minor (No. DA 1,140). The eminent French organist, Marcel Dupré, is heard again in the re-echoing Alexandra Palace, in the Variations from Widor's fifth (organ) symphony. Unfortunately, his prodigious finger- and foot-work is considerably masked, but the felicity of the registration cannot be concealed. (H.M.V. No. D 1,898).

MISCELLANEA.

The Westminster Abbey Special Choir, conducted by Dr. E. Bullock, and with O. H. Peasgood at the organ, sing, for H.M.V., No. C 2019: two sides) the fine chorus, "O man, thy grievous sin bemoan" (Bach's "Passion according to St. Matthew"). The comparative lack of definition, including the words, which are quite lost, due, no doubt, to the surroundings, cannot hide the fact that this is a fine body of singers.

Folk-dance enthusiasts will welcome two more of Columbia's series—Nos. DB 293-4. This time four Scottish country dances are recorded by the National Folk Dance Society Orchestra, conducted by Stanford Robinson.

There can be no doubt that there are things broadcast by the B.B.C., of which it is well worth having a permanent record. Perhaps the short play, "Brigade Exchange" (H.M.V. C 2046) given by the B.B.C. Players, will not be everybody's meat. But a couple of Epilogues (Columbia, Nos. DB 211-12), in which the Wireless Singers give chants and hymns in what one can only term perfection, will be widely welcomed. In "The Earth is the Lord's," the reader is the Hon. David Tennant; in "Youth and Age," Stuart Hibberd—a well-know voice, this.

H. F.

MOST OFFENSIVE.

BERLIN, Saturday.

A new Parliamentary world record has been established by Herr Schneider, Fascist member of the Brunswick Diet.

In the course of one sitting ninety-seven unparliamentary interruptions have been credited to him.—Exchange.

INTEREST IN THE PEERAGE.

WHY BOOKS OF REFERENCE ARE POPULAR.

INDIVIDUALISM'S BIG STAND.

By A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.

There has probably never been a time when people were more interested in biography—of the quick and the dead alike.

The reference books about living people, which are making their appearance at this moment, is a proof in point, for, in addition to "Who's Who," which gets bigger and bigger every year, we have all sorts of specialised books or sections of books of the same kind dealing with the leading figures in many activities, such as art, stage, stamp-collecting, Masonry, printing, and so on, to say nothing of the huge "Who's Who" volumes dealing with America, Canada, South Africa, and other parts of the Dominions.

What is the meaning of it all? It is one of the clearest and most interesting examples of the big fight the individual is putting up—and the interest in that fight by onlookers—against all the tendencies which tend to road-roller humanity into a mass of indistinguishable ciphers. The average man, however, wants to step outside with some achievement, and the other man, who may have no claim for fame, wants to hear all about his adventures.

INTEREST IN "MY LORDS."

A special feature of this who's who interest with ourselves is the peerage, an institution to which, with our keen sense of continuity, we cling. Even the Labour Government does so. No fewer than three different guides to the peerage are published every year. To begin with, there is "Burke," a huge tome, running into nearly 3,200 pages, and costing five guineas. Then there is "Debrett," which also increases every year, and now totals over 3,400 pages. On a smaller scale we have "Whitaker." All these books, on which a vast amount of labour is spent, are different. Thus, "Burke" alone gives detailed genealogies, and every year it increases its accuracy in descents. It is also strong on the heraldic side, if only because the founder's grandson, the late Sir Henry Farnham Burke, Garter Principal King of Arms, who died during the year, gave it the benefit of his great scholarship.

"Debrett," which first appeared in 1802, though the principle of an alphabetically arranged peerage was not put forward till John Burke devised it in 1826, deals chiefly with living representatives of families, confining the succession of the holders of titles to the concluding paragraph. "Whitaker" combines peerages, baronetages, and knighthoods under one alphabetical title, whereas in "Burke" and "Debrett" they are separated.

THE WONDERFUL "G. E. C."

In addition to these annuals, we have "The Complete Peerage" of the late Mr. Cokayne, known to all students as "G. E. C." This work is confined to the peerage only, and deals only with the holders of peerages. Its immense scope may be seen in the title—"The Complete Peerage of England, Scotland, Ireland, Great Britain, and the United Kingdom, extant, extinct, or dormant." It was started by "G. E. C." as a supplement to the "Genealogist" in 1884, and ran there serially for four years. When enough appeared to fill two volumes, it was continued in volume form only, being printed by Pollard of Exeter. The eighth and last volume was issued in 1898, the whole running into 3,642 pages.

It was an amazing achievement for one man to have carried out practically single-handed, and it became instantly recognised as unique, the price running up in some cases to twenty guineas a set. But, as peerage scholarship has greatly advanced, it was seen that it was capable of great improvement, and in 1910, the year before Mr Cokayne's death, at the age of 86, a much more spacious and more beautifully printed edition was launched under the editorship of his nephew, the Hon. Vicary Gibbs. The work has gone slowly on ever since, largely under the inspiring direction of Mr. H. A. Doubleday.

BRUTAL FRANKNESS.

So far, seven volumes have been published, the latest, down to the Earldom of Lincoln—merged since 1768 in the Dukedom of Newcastle—having appeared in 1929. The whole, up to date, represents 5,000 pages.

Besides the very accurate historical knowledge supplied by many first-class experts, "G. E. C." is remarkable for the extraordinarily frank notes, which make it extremely readable, as, for example, the comment on the 4th Marquis of Ailesbury, 1863-94.

A young man of low tastes, bad character, and brutal manners, of whom a recent Prime Minister remarked that his 'mind was a dung-hill, of which his tongue was the cock.' . . . It has been said that his death was only mourned by the Radical Party, who thus lost, for their speeches, a most eligible example of hereditary legislators."

Of course, "The Complete Peerage" can never be complete, for new peerages are being created all the time. Thus, quite apart from the limit set by the second edition of G.E.C.—namely, the end of Queen Victoria's reign, no fewer than 239 new peerages have been created since the appearance of the first volume in 1910, ten having been created this year, though that is a total gain of only one, for nine became extinct, including the Earldom of Lathom. During the years 1901-1930 inclusive 302 new peerages were created and 216 became extinct. These extinctions form no part of the "Burke," "Debrett," or "Whitaker" current issues.

The whole subject is an extraordinarily interesting one, if only as showing how we adapt old customs to present-day uses instead of scrapping everything, as other nations very wastefully, do.

NORTHERN ART AND LITERATURE.

"THE HEATON REVIEW."

"The Heaton Review," which appears annually at this time of the year, has its home at Heaton, on the outskirts of Bradford. It is a remarkable literary production, a distinguished band of authors and artists having combined once more to portray features of northern culture in art and literature.

Mr. Bernard Shaw has contributed one or two characteristic memories of Bradford. It seems that he once went to support an early candidature of Ben Tillett against the Gladstonian Liberalism of the day.

"A burst of invective against Gladstone," confesses G. B. S., "cost Ben his chance of winning: it had the effect of a horrifying blasphemy." Mr. Shaw also recalls a visit to lecture to the Sunday Society, who offered him ten guineas with politics and religion barred.

"I said I never lectured on any other subjects," he recalls, "and always in the most violently controversial manner, but I would donate the ten guineas to the society. They replied that on these terms I might lecture to them all the year round on any subjects I pleased; so I hot-gospelled them to my heart's content."

Other contributors include John Galsworthy, J. B. Priestley, C. J. Cutcliffe Hyne, Herbert Read, Humbert Wolfe, Kramer, Naviasky, Laurence Binyon, C. R. W. Nevinson, Fred Lawson, and Dr. Temple, Archbishop of York. Altogether the "review" is an excellent half-crown's worth.

Court and Society

The King and Queen arrived at Sandringham on Monday, and will remain there for another four or five weeks. The usual old-fashioned customs were observed, and gave great pleasure to all privileged to participate.

Following the example set by Their Majesties, this Christmas seems to have been very much of a stay-at-home one, and those who have elected to go abroad are in the great minority. Family parties have been the general rule, whether the assembly has been in town or country. The Earl and Countess of Pembroke and Montgomery spent last week-end at Melbury with the Earl and Countess of Ilchester, and then returned home to Wilton House, Salisbury, for the Christmas party. This year it was not a large one, as their eldest son, Lord Herbert, is in India, staying with the Viceroy; the second son, the Hon. David Herbert, is away working in New York; and the only daughter, Viscountess Hambleden, spent the time at Greenlands, Henley-on-Thames, with her husband and baby. Lady Juliet Duff and her son were among the guests at Wilton, and so were General and Lady Sybil Grant, the Hon. Mrs. Cyril Ward, and the Hon. Mrs. Rupert Beckett. There will be a party for New Year at which Lord and Lady Hambleden will be present, and others who will be arriving will be Prince and Princess Bismarck, Captain Malcolm Bullock, and the Earl and Countess of Mar and Kellie. Lady Pembroke's sister, Lady Winifred Pennoyer, and her husband have gone to Spain until the end of January.

The Marquis and Marchioness of Londonderry are at Wynyard Park, Stockton-on-Tees, for the "festive season," and are acting as host and hostess to Princess Helena Victoria, Lady Alister Leveson-Gower and her little girl, Miss Elizabeth Leveson-Gower, the Maharajah of Alwar, General Cameron, Marquis Pallavicini, Mr. E. Brock, and Mrs. James Corrigan, who came straight over from Paris to join them. Lady Maureen Stanley will arrive in time for the New Year celebrations, and will have her children with her.

The 5th of January will find the Marchioness of Londonderry and her daughters, the Ladies Margaret and Helen Stewart, leaving Wynyard Park for London, where they are due for their last rehearsals for the Viennese Waltzes, in which they will take part at the Strauss Ball, which is being held at the Savoy Hotel on the following evening. Marquis Pallavicini will partner Lady Londonderry, Viscountess Furness will dance with M. Wolkoff, and Lady George Cholmondeley, Mrs. Robin D'Erlanger, and Miss Peggy Gordon Moore are to dance solo in the special Viennese waltz, which will introduce the dance proper. Many well-known people are taking part in these exhibition waltzes, among them being Lady Evelyn Guinness, Lady Morvyth Benson, the Begum Aga Khan, the Hon. Elizabeth Grosvenor, the Hon. Cynthia Guest, the Hon. Mrs. Robert Jenkinson, Mrs. K. Stanley Smith (the chic daughter of Izzet Pasha, the late Grand Vizier to the Sultan of Turkey), Lady Patricia Ward, and the Hon. Phyllis Astor, Miss Phyllis Bedells, Lady Londonderry, Marquis Pallavicini, and Lady George Cholmondeley will judge the dancing, for which prizes will be awarded. Among those who will take part are Lady Annaly, Lady Congleton, Lady Louis Mountbatten, Countess Jellicoe, the Hon. Dorothy Paget, Viscountess Hambleden, and Viscount Harcourt.

Yesterday, Marchioness Douro gave a dance at Strathfieldsaye, near Reading, to which most of the neighbours were invited. The library was cleared for the event, and formed an admirable setting. Strathfieldsaye remains to-day just as it was in the time of the great Duke of Wellington, and Marquis Douro is quite at one with the wishes of his father, the present Duke, in strictly adhering to the principle of having nothing altered in any way. Lady Anne Wellesley and her young brother, the Earl of Mornington, were well to the fore at the dance, which was also attended by the Dowager Lady Glentanar, Lady Douro's mother, who is spending the festive season there before going up to her Scotch home, Craigendinnie. This lies on the borders of her son's estate, the Forest of Glen Tanar, where Lord and Lady Glentanar are entertaining relatives at the moment. These include his father and mother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Thoresen, with their daughter, Miss Wanda Thoresen. Lord Glentanar proposes to do a triple bill for his theatricals this winter, which will include "A Night at an Inn," by Lord Dunsany—which is a thriller; "Me and My Diary," by Gertrude Jennings—a comedy; and the ever-green "H.M.S. Pinafore." Lord Glentanar is an excellent musician and a first-rate singer, so he will be able to give full justice to the intricacies of Sullivan's delightful score. The performances will take place in the middle of next month.

Viscount and Viscountess Cowdray have had much the same Christmas party at Cowdray Park, Midhurst, as usual, with the exception of their eldest daughter, who is in Egypt, and the Hon. Nancy Pearson, who is still travelling in America with her grandmother, Annie Viscountess Cowdray. Their married daughter, the Hon. Mrs. George Murray, and her husband have been staying at Cowdray, and the party also included Sir Evelyn and Lady Murray, Lady Edward Spencer Churchill (Lady Cowdray's mother), Lady Cowdray's sister and brother-in-law, and one or two others.

Christmas was spent at Madresfield Court, Great Malvern, for the first time in my memory, without the presence of its master, Earl Beauchamp, who is still away in Australia. He has sent cards to his friends at home, which bear on the outside in a facsimile of his handwriting the words "A Message from Sydney," and inside there is a photograph of a span of the new bridge over Sydney harbour, opposite which are words of greeting also in a replica of Lord Beauchamp's writing. He is due to return to England on the 22nd of next month. Lady Beauchamp, quite well again, had a family party at Madresfield, where Christmas and New Year are invariably celebrated in the real old-fashioned way, with a tree, carols, snapdragon, and so forth. As the married daughter of the house, Lady Lettice Cobbold, lives only thirty miles away, she was able to join in the festivities almost as if she were staying in her old home itself.

The brother and heir-apparent to the Maharajah of Mysore and Professor Lindemann are joining the Hon. Mrs. Ronald Greville's guests at Polesden Lacey, where she has been celebrating Christmas. Sir Austen and Lady Chamberlain and their daughter, Diane, and their young son, Lawrence, have once again had a delightful Yule in this restful house, where others staying include the Brazilian Ambassador and his wife and daughter, Prince and Princess Bismarck, Sir William and Lady Pulteney, Mr. John Bailey, Sir Harcourt Butler, Sir Robert Horne, and Lady Cochrane.

Family gatherings have taken place at Ashby St. Ledgers and at Exton Park. At the former, Viscount and Viscountess Wimborne have had their son, the Hon. Ivor Guest, and their daughter, the Hon. Cynthia Guest, with them, as well as their married daughter, the Hon. Mrs. Gilbert Hay, and her husband and baby. From Ashby they are due to go to Sherwood Lodge, Nottingham, for pheasant shooting, which Lord Wimborne has leased for five years from Sir Hugh Seely. Sir Hugh will be among the guns, and so will Sir John Milbanke. At Exton Sir Victor and Lady Warrender have been surrounded by their little family of three boys. There was a tree for children on the estate and a big bran pie, and the Warrender boys undertook the task of decorating the tree and distributing the presents. Sir Victor Warrender and his wife will remain at their Oakham home over the New Year.

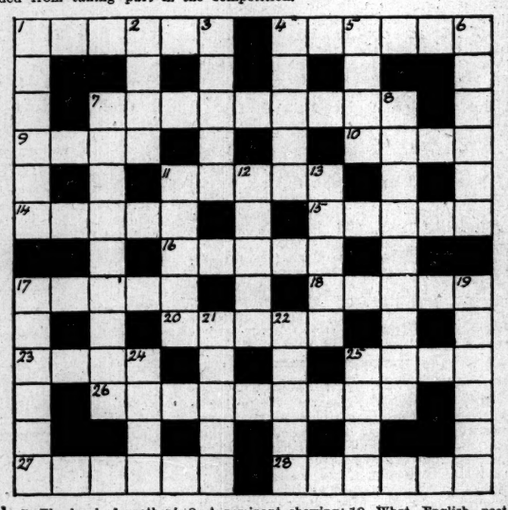
The Hon. Ernest and Mrs. Guinness have had a re-union of their family at Glenmaroon, their Dublin home, but one reduced in numbers, for their daughter, the Marchioness of Dufferin and Ava, is away in India with her husband, and their youngest, Mrs. Philip Kindersley, is staying with her husband's parents, Sir Robert and Lady Kindersley, at Plan Hatch. However, those with Mr. and Mrs. Guinness include the Hon. Brinsley and Mrs. Plunket and Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Davison. Sir Harold and Lady Zia Wernher have been spending Christmas in London, as has Lady Cunard, though she intends going abroad in the New Year. Lady Lavery, too, is in town, as though Sir John Lavery is making good progress he is not up yet. They also have the intention of going away next month, and have planned a stay at Cannes. Mr. Hubert Duggan is passing Yuletide in New York, where he is staying with Prince Obolensky and Mr. Vincent Astor. Viscount and Viscountess Ridley have some of their immediate relatives with them at their Northumberland home, Blagdon Hall. These include Lady Ridley's parents, Sir Edwin and Lady Emily Lutyens, and Mr. Osbert and Lady Joan Peake have also joined them.

The South of France always has its votaries, and those who have already gone there to seek the sun are the Grand Duke Dimitri and his wife, the Duchess of Sutherland, Earl and Countess of Abingdon, and the Hon. Evelyn and Mrs. FitzGerald, who as usual have chosen Monte Carlo as their headquarters. Lord and Lady Forres chose Christmas Day for leaving London on their journey to their villa on the heights above Mentone, and Sir Henry and the Hon. Lady Norman have gone to join the latter's parents, Lord and Lady Aberconway, at the Chateau de la Garoupe at Antibes.

MAYFAIR.

CROSS-WORD PUZZLE No. 313.

Send solutions addressed "Cross-word No. 313," SUNDAY TIMES, 135, Fleet Street, London, E.C.4. Two novels selected from publishers' announcements in the SUNDAY TIMES will be given to the senders of the first five correct solutions opened after the first post on Thursday. Readers in Scotland are precluded from taking part in the competition.



ACROSS.

1. Merely a grave matter.
4. One of the swine has swallowed everything, and so is naturally not very ruddy.
7. A villain of nursery days.
9. Seventeenth century old master.
10. Thou revealest a blonde skin, Ella, indeed (hidden).
11. Handle and much the same without its head.
14. This kind of store may otherwise be a stamp.
15. Improve.
16. Flower.
17. Town of India.
18. Leading perhaps by itself.
20. Scottish island.
23. Flower.
25. Company, generally fair.
26. "Lardy room." (anag.)
27. Two backward animals make an Asiatic.
28. One of the crocodile family.

DOWN.

1. This modern writer could naturally use his head to attract attention.
2. Without purpose.
3. Nineteenth century English artist.
4. The old maid naturally dislikes being hereon, but she's there.
5. The head of another word in this puzzle.
6. Sounds not powerful, but describes this puzzle.
7. If postal officials may not handle red letters, it is natural this should be a crime.
8. A ruminant showing a part of its inside shows a friend in need.
11. Part of a flower.
12. Another word in this puzzle decapitated.
13. One of the U.S.A.
17. Insult, though it doesn't sound serious.
19. What English poet is popular with animals?
21. Tree.
22. Character of the O.T.
24. "Smiles in such a —— as if he mock'd himself."—Julius Cæsar.
25. Bugbear of a kind.

CROSS-WORD No. 312. PRIZEWINNERS.

MISS C. S. GRANT,
Ickleton,
Great Chesterford,
Essex.

C. H. S. HARRIS,
14, Granard Road,
Wandsworth Common, S.W.12,

MRS. R. LAMB,
Greycote,
Bishop's Wood Road,
Prestatyn, N. Wales.

F. H. MARTIN,
15, Albert Road,
Ashford, Kent.

O. PEARCE,
19, Monmouth Avenue,
Bury, Lancs.

SOLUTION OF PUZZLE No. 312.

B	O	T	T	L	E		F	L	O	R	I	D
R		I		O			A		A		I
E	X	P	A	N	D		B	R	O	G	U	E
V		P		G	O	U	R	D		T		S
E	W	E	S		M		I		S	A	G	E
T		T	H	R	I	L	L	I	N	G		L
			E		N		L		O			
S		D	E	L	I	C	I	O	U	S		S
C	A	R	P		C		A		T	Y	N	E
O		Y		F	A	I	N	T		D		I
T	U	R	P	I	N		T	E	N	N	I	S
C		O		N			A		E		I	
H	A	T	T	E	R		C	R	A	Y	O	N

A Woman's Corner

A Happy New Year

Honour to Whom Honour is Due.

By PANDORA.

That hopefulness which dies so hard in the normal human being allows us to look to each New Year with eagerness, and to believe, despite experience, that the good wishes of our friends for a Happy and Prosperous New Year will be realised.

When that hope dies, and we look to a New Year with no idea that it will mean more than any other time, we are to be pitied. Life must have dealt hardly with the man or woman who feels that there is nothing to which to look forward; that there is nothing waiting around the corner which will alter his life; that no splendid piece of good luck, no new influence which will make his life glow afresh, no fulfilled ambition, no finding a dream come true, hides behind the prosaic figures 1931.

All but the very young and untried have had hard knocks, have known sorrow and the bitterness of disappointment, the grief of bereavement, or the sharp pain of disillusionment, but if we can keep that freshness which makes each year a possible climax, each day a new adventure, that sees us looking forward and not backward, we are still happy people.

The New Year Wish.

What does one wish for most in the New Year? For some that the dreams may come true, for others relief from pain and the promise of health, for some a better position in the world. But there are others who pray with all their hearts that 1931 will see no change. That the restless gods may forget them for a space, and that the end of the year may see them as in the beginning.

Such be those who have found happiness and contentment in a safe harbour after a voyage in troubled waters, who know the value of what they possess. They have known change and its terrible possibilities, they have prayed aloud for what they wanted most, and experienced the anguish of a granted prayer. Now they cry to those behind that curtain which hides the future from the past, "Leave us as we are. Let life for us stand still lest progress spoil the harmonious pattern into which our days are woven."

Old-time Customs.

The story of Christmas Day was probably the same in thousands and thousands of homes where the simple old friendly gatherings were held and the same old customs honoured. Christmas at hotels and abroad is all very well, but even the housekeeper of the family, who sometimes groans over catering for numerous persons for several days at a time, usually, in her heart, prefers the family Christmas. Then the old jokes are made and the old stories told of other Christmases, even if they be told without the aid of the traditional Yule log, which is decidedly unsuited to a small house or a flat.

Our Thanks.

The persons who deserve the thanks of the public and seldom get it because we are too preoccupied are the courteous men and girls in the shops, the van-men, who deliver parcels all day and until the night, and the people connected with the post offices. In my own neighbourhood there is a big branch post office where only men are engaged, but also a small post office in a grocer's shop, where two delightful young girls made the sending of parcels a less irksome task than it might have been. If you waited patiently in a queue for half-an-hour carrying a huge armful of bundles (buoyed up more or less by the virtuous feeling that you were obeying the P.M.G.'s injunction to "post early"), you knew that when it came to your turn to lay down those parcels you would find a bright, smiling girl who beamed at you as if weighing and giving change were a great joke arranged for her amusement.

Parcel-carriers are a polite and patient lot, I will say that for us. The one thing that rouses a queue to indignation is the idea that a late-comer has walked up to the top of the line and is demanding attention. But the outraged feelings are soothed when we learn that the blameless object of our hatred is merely handing in a stamped parcel too large to be placed in the box.

Childermas.

To-day, Holy Innocents Day, or Childermas, called, as none needs to be reminded, in memory of the destruction of the children by Herod, was in old days regarded as very unlucky. Marriages were not solemnised on that date, and no one with any regard for good or bad fortune would undertake a new venture on Holy Innocents Day. Even in the matter of coronations, as an old book reminds us, there were superstitions attached to the anniversary, for Edward IV. postponed his crowning when it was found that the date chosen was Christmas.

Modern people seem to have little feeling about the date, and, as far as I know, nothing special takes place to mark Holy Innocents Day, except the beautiful carol service in Westminster Abbey, where one listens to the voices of the choristers soaring up through the distant roof to beat on the gates of Heaven itself. And, talking of children's voices and of children, it is a loss to Londoners that the Foundling Hospital was moved from its old quarters. How many have sat entranced listening to the boys and girls in their quaint dress—which I admit set them apart from ordinary children—singing with all their hearts the story of another Child, "a little tiny child" who was born in a manger close to where "oxen lay and asses fed."

A concerted effort to help children's hospitals and other charities connected with children on this date might be popular.

London Fogs.

The pre-Christmas fogs came to snap their fingers at the people who had begun to talk as if fogs were not what they used to be. Old-timers have been apt to tell of the fogs of their youth, with half affectionate pride in their badness, but after last week's experiences there will be little left for the veterans to say.

Fog is always looked at askance as an excuse for being late, or for breaking engagements, because it has a tiresome trick of being local. What is the good of telephoning to explain that you are quite unable to go out to tea because of the fog which hardly allows you to see your hand before your face, when the would-be hostess replies, coldly, "Fog? What fog? We have none here."

Fog can be wildly mysterious, thrillingly interesting—that is if you are a romantic and an idealist—but its friends are few, and the array of accusations against fog should make it turn tail and disappear for ever. Unfortunately, they have no effect, and, despite modern discoveries and more gas and electricity and less coal, the fogs seem to hold their power of making us thoroughly uncomfortable.

RAILWAYMEN'S DAY.

COLLECTIONS ON THURSDAY FOR BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.

The New Year collection in aid of the Railway Benevolent Institution is, with the cordial concurrence of the railway companies, to be made on Thursday at all stations in Great Britain and Ireland.

During 1930 186,286 railway employees became members of the year's casualty fund, and assistance was rendered to 111 widows of men killed, 693 widows of men dying from illness, and 5,295 men accidentally injured—a total of 6,099 cases relieved. The total income from all sources was £106,214, but needs continue to increase, and the generous support of the public is sought on Thursday.

QUAINT OFFICES OF STATE.

LORD LONSDALE AS AN ADMIRAL.

MARQUIS, HEREDITARY CORONER.

The Admiral of the Port of London was piped aboard his flagship the other day and put to sea to inspect his fleet returned from foreign shores.

This ancient title is held by the Lord Mayor of London, and though Sir Phené Neal does not claim a seafaring reputation he is a perfectly "pukka" admiral and fully entitled to fly his admiral's flag when at sea off his coasts of London.

If other admirals had been invited to this ceremony one might have seen a spectacle seldom surpassed in naval history. As there is no Lord High Admiral of England at present, Admiral the Earl of Lonsdale would certainly have been an admirable deputy and would have trod the quarter-deck in true nautical style. Then might follow Admiral the Marquess of Donegall, the Admiral of Southampton Water, the Admiral of the Humber, and other sea-captains.

ADMIRAL'S FLAG.

It is perfectly true that Lord Lonsdale is an admiral, for he bears the proud title of Hereditary Admiral of the Coasts of Cumberland and Westmorland; Lord Donegall is Hereditary Lord High Admiral of Lough Neath, and not only flies his admiral's flag, but also the White Ensign.

This privilege is usually restricted to warships and craft owned by members of the Royal Yacht Squadron, but who would challenge the right of an Hereditary Lord High Admiral?

Two years ago Southampton had a woman mayor, Mrs. Foster-Welch, and the naval folk wondered if she would be an admiral too. Without much difficulty Mrs. Foster-Welch proved her right to fly her admiral's flag anywhere in Southampton Water, and did so, too, being piped aboard a great liner in excellent style, while her pennant was broken at the mast.

The admiral of the port is also entitled to an admiral's salute of guns whenever naval craft enter Southampton Water.

ENGLAND'S CHIEF BUTLER.

There are a number of these curious titles borne by prominent people, an authority on heraldry said yesterday.

"It is well known that the young Duke of Norfolk is Earl-Marshal of England, but he also bears the much more picturesque title of Hereditary Chief Butler. The dishes served by the Hereditary Chief Butler would, no doubt, first be tasted by the Hereditary Grand Almoner. This is the Marquis of Exeter, who also enjoys the privileges and dignities of being Custos Rotulorum of the Soke of Peterborough.

"The Hereditary Grand Falconer is the Duke of St. Albans, who might prove his skill by flying a hawk in Epping Forest. To do this, however, he should be accompanied by the Duke of Connaught, who is Ranger of Epping Forest. Perchance Whittlebury Forest might be more convenient, and then the 16-years-old Duke of Grafton would surely be glad to go with him. Were, however, Richmond Park to be preferred, the King, as Chief Ranger, would have to be requested to grant permission.

KEEPERS OF CASTLES.

"Many old castles have hereditary keepers. Lord Harlech is Hereditary Constable of Harlech Castle. The Duke of Hamilton enjoys the position of Hereditary Keeper of Holyrood Palace, while Earl Beauchamp is Constable of Dover and Warden of the Cinque Ports—a position held by the King from 1905-1907.

"The Marquis of Bute is not only Hereditary Sheriff of Bute, but also holds the office of Hereditary Coroner of the county. Another curious title is held by the Earl of Kilmorney, who is an Hereditary Abbot.

"The Prince of Wales is Lord High Steward of Windsor, his brother, the Duke of Gloucester, enjoys a similar position at King's Lynn, while their great-aunt, Princess Beatrice, is Governor of the Isle of Wight. Mr. Ramsay MacDonald incorporates in his other offices the Gilbertian-sounding title of Lord High Treasurer of England, while Lord Sankey, as Lord Chancellor, is also Lord Keeper of the Great Seal.

THE GOLDEN SPURS.

"Lord Grey de Ruthyn, whose title is over six hundred years old, is an Hereditary Bearer of one of the Golden Spurs. Another Bearer is the Countess of Loudoun, whose title is almost as old. Their privileges are exercised at coronations and other great occasions of state.

"More popular than many of these titles, however, is that enjoyed by the Marquis of Huntly, who is affectionately known as Cock o' the North by all his friends across the Tweed."

BEATING NOISES AT NEW B.B.C.

CONSTRUCTION DEVICE.

For many reasons the year 1931 promises to be notable in the history of wireless in this country. It will see the opening of Broadcasting House, the new headquarters of the British Broadcasting Corporation, in Portland Place. It will see also the development of the permanent orchestra, upon which over £100,000 will be spent, and there will also be completed the new north regional transmitting station on an eminence of the Pennines near Huddersfield, which will ensure to the northern listener a full alternative programme service.

The construction of the new building, with ten floors, three below the ground, and the removal of broadcasting from Savoy Hill should improve greatly the service to listeners all over the country. Studio accommodation will be at least doubled, and the headquarters staff will be brought under one roof. There will be ample room for audiences, and vaudeville artists will perform in a miniature theatre. They require the stimulus of an audience and an atmosphere to which they are accustomed if they are to give the best results.

How the B.B.C. conquers sound problems was explained yesterday to the SUNDAY TIMES.

"Broadcasting House has been designed specially to the requirements of the Corporation," an official said. "The central tower will occupy the space in the new building which is, in the ordinary way, devoted to a light well. The studios will be built in this tower, which will be remarkable for the fact that, despite ten storeys, three below the surface of the ground, there will not be a single piece of vertical steel work from top to bottom of the building. The reason is that steel is a conductor of sound, and as the studios are placed one above the other, it was felt that the presence of steel might result in the communication of noises between the floors.

"The building outside the central tower, which will separate the studios from the streets that bound the site on all but the north side, follows the usual lines of construction. Access to the studios will be along corridors from the outer building, so that they will be completely unaffected not only by sound interference one with another, but also by exterior influence.

"Early in the New Year the north regional transmitters which are being built on the Pennines will be at work, so that by the summer listeners in the north will also enjoy a full alternative programme service. We shall also begin work on twin-wave transmitters for Scotland, and we are testing possible sites for a western regional transmitting station in Somerset."

There are in the United Kingdom over 3,250,000 licence holders, an increase of about 400,000 in twelve months. It is calculated that wireless is now installed in one out of every two homes in England and Wales.

CARP FOR 700 YEARS.

STORY OF GERMANY'S CHRISTMAS DISH.

KING AS BEGGAR.

MONKS' RESCUE THAT KILLED A SLANDER.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

BERLIN, Saturday.

Why carp is eaten at Christmas time in all families who can afford to buy it in Germany and the smaller countries to the eastward is thus explained by the historians:—

King Ottokar the First, of Bohemia, sat in his palace on the great hill overlooking the town of Prague towards the end of December, 1227, listening to the plaints of his subjects, who told him terrible tales of the sufferings of the people in the towns and the villages, especially of those living in the country districts, who declared that they had no longer the strength to defend themselves and their cattle against the ravenous hordes of starving wolves.

The winter had set in early, and was unusually severe, so that the King believed what he heard. At the same time, however, slanderers whispered in his ears that the monks of Klosterbruck terrorised the whole neighbourhood around them, and with their Abbot at their head scoured the forests, and fell even on harmless travellers, whom they robbed of everything of value. But King Ottokar was reluctant to believe this, as he could not imagine men whom he had always known as being pious hermits turning into savage robbers. The slanderers swore, however, by all that they held sacred, that they related the truth, and urged the King to send troops to Klosterbruck to teach the wicked monks a lesson.

THREE ORDERS.

On the same evening King Ottokar issued three orders, namely, that corn and wood should be served out to all the cold and hungry families, that a thousand soldiers should arm themselves with pike and sword and be ready to attend him, and that the garb of a beggarman should be obtained and brought to him. The monks of the Premonstratensian order had erected a fortress near Znaim, between the March and the Danube, and to this the King led his troops. He ordered them to remain within the fortress, while he, wearing the beggar's rags, and carrying a long stick and a bundle, started off along the banks of the frozen river Thaya to Klosterbruck, hoping that when he got nearer the wicked monks would attack and plunder him. "If I am not back on the second day," King Ottokar said to his general, "storm the sinful monastery with fire and steel, for the monks will have thrown me into their dungeon." His Majesty was not accustomed to walking alone through snowfields, however, and when he was within sight of Klosterbruck on the afternoon of the second day his legs failed him, and he could do nothing more than shout at the top of his voice to scare away the wolves. Just at that moment the Abbot Florian was walking to the church at the head of his monks to celebrate Vespers; he stopped suddenly, and lifting up his finger, said: "Listen! the howling of the wolves drowns the sound of our Vesper bell, that certainly means that a wanderer has been overpowered by the cold and is in danger of being frozen to death. Arm yourselves quickly; we must hurry out, for to help is Christian duty."

NOTHING BUT BOILED CARP.

Some fifty monks in steel breast-plates and caps soon followed their Abbot out of the gates, and had not gone far before they saw a flock of hungry ravens take flight; they quickly frightened off the wolves with the rattle of their swords on their armour, found the half-dead pilgrim, carried him into the monastery, and warmed his frozen limbs. The King determined still to maintain his rôle as a beggar, and pretended to stagger when he walked later, at the Abbot's request, to the supper table. He joined in the prayer, and the Abbot then turned towards him, saying: "It is God's grace that has saved you, dear wanderer, not the weak strength of

NEW FOG GUIDE FOR AIRMEN.

"TAKING SOUNDINGS" BEFORE LANDING.

TELL-TALE LAMP.

IMPERIAL AIRWAYS' DECISION.

By OUR AIR CORRESPONDENT.

Imperial Airways experts have decided that the new fog flying equipment devised by Air Ministry experts, is not sufficiently perfected to enable them to operate regular air services on an "all-weather" basis. The equipment had been tested in a series of comprehensive experiments by Flight-Lieut. Oddie, an R.A.F. pilot, at Farnborough Aerodrome.

"Fog flying," an Imperial Airways official told me yesterday, "has not yet reached the state of efficiency necessary in air transport work. It must prove itself more thoroughly before we can trust our pasengers and our machines in flight when weather conditions are really bad."

The new system is generally considered to be one of the biggest steps yet made towards the conquest of fog dangers to aircraft, and it is believed it will make air services much less dependent on weather conditions.

The tests were made with a service aeroplane in a fog which rose to a height of ninety feet above the ground. Five take-offs and five landings were made, absolutely "blind," with complete success.

RED LAMP WARNING.

The most important part of the apparatus was a short length of wire suspended beneath the aeroplane and carrying a small weight. This was connected to a trip-switch in the pilot's cockpit, so that as soon as the weight touched the ground, a small red light was illuminated, indicating to the pilot—who could see nothing of the ground—that he was about to land.

The greatest difficulty encountered was to find a method of telling the pilot when he was directly over the aerodrome, and to give him at the same time his accurate height. This difficulty was solved by mooring a small balloon over the aerodrome at 400 feet above the belt of fog. The pilot then took off and flew through the fog belt into the clear atmosphere above. On sighting the balloon he put his machine into a glide at a predetermined angle, and continued his descent through the fog until the weight struck the ground, and the indicating lamp glowed. The machine was then "flattened out" in a normal way, and landed perfectly.

This test was repeated five times, with a member of the Air Ministry Scientific Research Staff as a passenger. An official report issued on the tests states that "it is considered that these experiments indicate a real advance in the technique of fog landing, and the method is one that is expected to be of great practical use."

SANTA CLAUS MYTH

PARENT SUES TUTOR.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

PARIS, Saturday.

Legal action which is being taken in Paris will tend to dispel the legend that it is Father Christmas himself who fills children's pockets and loads their Christmas trees with presents after they have gone to bed on Christmas Eve.

On Wednesday the private tutor of a seven-year-old son of a wealthy Parisian, asked his pupil why he was so very cheerful. When the boy explained that he was expecting a visit from Father Christmas within a few hours the tutor told him that he was too old to go on believing that "myth."

In the evening, at the family dinner-table, the boy repeated the declaration of his teacher. His father, M. Dauprey, was furious, and promptly notified the teacher that his services would no longer be required.

M. Dauprey is now claiming £80 for "moral prejudice." He points out that when he engaged the private tutor instead of sending his son to school, it was in order that the boy might be educated according to his (the father's) own ideas. "By destroying the legend in which I still wish my son to believe," M. Dauprey declares, "his teacher has exceeded his rights."

M. Charles Davis, who is acting for M. Dauprey, states that his client will devote the damages, if any, to a charitable fund for children.

"ORDER OF THE EGG" FOR MR. THOMAS.

STUDENTS' TRIBUTE.

Mr. J. H. Thomas, the Dominions Secretary, received a new honour yesterday, when he was invested with the Order of the Egg. It was conferred on him by a deputation of the South African Students' delegation visiting this country which he received at the Dominion Office.

The emblem consisted of a number of hen's eggs strung together, and was hung around Mr. Thomas's neck by Mr. Jarvis, a member of the deputation.

"It is an old South African custom," Mr. Jarvis explained. "Usually an ostrich egg is used, but unfortunately the one selected hatched out during the journey, and so we are presenting you with a collar of South African hen eggs in its place." He added that the decoration was presented to those who endeavoured to stimulate Africa's trade with the Old Country.

In thanking the deputation, Mr. Thomas remarked: "I assure you that this South African custom is not without precedent—the presentation of eggs to politicians. This is not the first time I have received the mark of the egg but they have never been so gracefully handed to me as on this occasion."

EMPEROR OF JAPAN.

HOW RUMOUR OF ATTEMPT ON LIFE AROSE.

TOKYO, Saturday.

The rumour (not published by Reuter) that an attempt was made yesterday on the life of the Emperor of Japan, is authoritatively denied.

While the Emperor was on his way to open Parliament yesterday morning, a man attempted to present to him a petition regarding some personal grievance, and was promptly arrested. Similar incidents have often occurred and no importance is attached to them.

While running forward to the Emperor's motor-car, the petitioner dropped a spectacle case which the crowd temporarily mistook for a revolver. It is thought that this gave rise to the rumour of an attempt on the life of His Imperial Majesty.—Reuter.

METEORITE ALARM IN FRANCE.

PARIS, Saturday.

Some alarm was caused at Roscoff, in the Finistere department, during the night by a meteorite which passed close to the town. It made a distinct noise, and caused a displacement of air which was easily noticeable. It also left a trail of light in its wake. Some people who observed it fled from their homes, believing it to be some evil omen.—Central News.

10,000 OUT OF WORK.

FRENCH ALARM OVER POSITION.

BRITISH AND GERMAN FIGURES.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

PARIS, Saturday.

Unemployment has become a question of the day in France. This word, it is true, does not mean in France what it means in Great Britain, the United States, or in Germany, for here the unemployed are counted not by millions but by thousands only.

Nevertheless, figures which have just been published in the Journal Official, and which certainly do not indicate anything like the real number of unemployed and of men who are only working part time, are significant. On December 20 the number of people receiving benefits were 10,686 (8,961 men and 1,725 women), or 1,750 more than in the previous week. Compared with the same period last year, this total shows an increase of 9,932 registered unemployed.

It is interesting to note that the unemployed in Paris alone is 6,308, while in the whole Department of the Seine, including Paris, there are 9,164 unemployed. The problem in France, therefore, chiefly affects the capital and its suburbs.

CAUSING UNEASINESS.

Although to an Englishman these figures may not appear alarming, they have not failed to cause considerable uneasiness in France. The matter was discussed at the Cabinet meeting yesterday evening, at the close of which the Minister of Labour, M. Grinda, pointed out that compared with other countries France was still in a very favourable position. "Steps are being taken," he added, "to prevent a further development of the crisis."

A very serious view was taken at the meeting this morning of the Conseil Générale of the Seine Department, and the question was discussed of an increase in unemployment benefit. It was agreed to make provision for the expenditure of £40,000 in the departmental budget for 1931. A slight increase is to be made in the allowance to the head of the family. Unfortunately, the official figures do not take account of the fact that in many industries, notably in the metal and building trades, as well as in the luxury trades, shorter hours are being worked. Many workers are now engaged for thirty-two hours instead of forty-eight hours a week.

It is expected that one result of this situation will be the revision of the regulations concerning foreign workers in France, for it is estimated that out of the total of 12,000,000 workers at least 1,700,000 are foreigners.

GERMANY'S WORKLESS MILLIONS.

BERLIN, Saturday.

Ten million persons, or one-sixth of the total population, are now affected by the unemployment in Germany, according to newspaper estimates. The official returns show four millions without employment.

Of these, two million are married, and the average German family numbers four members, this making eight millions in all; to whom must be added the two million unemployed bachelors and spinsters.—Exchange.

[On November 24 the number of unemployed in Great Britain was 2,286,460. No exact figures are available from America, the number of unemployed being estimated at anything from three to eight millions.]

NEWSPAPER BOY TO MAYOR.

RUSSIAN SETTLERS MAKE GOOD.

TORONTO, Saturday.

The success which has been achieved by a Russian family who came to Canada twenty-four years ago has been disclosed following the election of the eldest son as Mayor of Windsor, Ontario. Four sons of Hillel and Minnie Croll, born in Russia, are to-day occupied as follows:—

David, aged 30, a lawyer in Windsor, who has been elected Mayor of that city;

Leo, aged 28, an eye, ear, nose and throat specialist in Detroit, U.S.A.;

Sam, aged 26, practising dentistry in Detroit; and Maurice, aged 25, an extraction specialist in Detroit.

Of those born in Canada, Cecil, aged 21, is to graduate in law at the end of this term at Osgoode Hall, Toronto, and Evelyn, aged 20, the only girl in the family, is a dental hygienist in Detroit.

When the family came to Canada in 1906 the elder boys sold newspapers in the streets of Windsor. David, the recently-elected Mayor of Windsor, was selling papers as recently as eleven years ago. He is said to be the first Jew to be elected mayor of a Canadian city.—Reuter.

CAT'S CHRISTMAS DINNER.

KIND THOUGHT LEADS TO TWO ARRESTS.

How a man's thought for his cat at Christmas-time led to the arrest of two alleged shopbreakers was related at Marylebone yesterday when James Saunders (28), a costermonger, and Harold Munro (25), a painter, were charged with breaking into a grocery shop at Queen's Crescent, Kentish Town, and stealing a steel safe, about 3,000 dividend checks, and twelve bottles of whisky, value £57 10s., belonging to Geo. Lister and Co., Ltd.

James Smith, the manager of the shop, said that on Boxing Day he thought of the cat he had left on the premises, and went there to feed it. As he entered he saw that the place was in disorder. He fetched the police, and Saunders and Munro were arrested as they were climbing over a wall at the back. A search of the premises showed that a door at the foot of the stairs leading to the shop had been forced, another door at the top had been forced, taken off its hinges and used as a barrier, and a steel safe had been removed and ripped open. Two heavy jemmies were left on the safe, and a dozen bottles of whisky had been packed up ready for removal. The contents of the safe were strewn about the floor.

Police-Constable Curd stated that he found the prisoners on the roof of an outhouse, and saw both of them climb over the back wall.

The men offered no defence, and were committed for trial.

GROCK AS FILM STAR.

PRODUCER OF HIS OWN £50,000 FILM.

BERLIN, Saturday.

Grock, the international clown, who has declared that he is never returning to the stage, has become a film producer and actor. He has hired a studio from the Ufa, the big German film company, at their grounds near Berlin, and for the past six weeks has been producing a film of circus life with himself, of course, in the chief part.

A real circus was built, and 2,000 people engaged as spectators were paid every day to sit and laugh at the famous clown's antics. The film is being made in German and French, and it is estimated it has cost Grock at least £50,000 to produce.—Reuter.

REDS PLOT BANK WRECKS.

"WHISPER CAMPAIGN" IN U.S.A.

RUNS ENDED.

VETO ON NEWSPAPER ATTACKS.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

NEW YORK, Saturday.

Concrete evidence of attempts by a Communist organisation to undermine public confidence in the banks has been obtained by the New York State authorities. This evidence was forwarded five months ago to the State Banking Department, and, as a result, the "Novy Mir," a Communist weekly newspaper published here in Russian, was ordered to cease printing stories attacking American banks and urging its readers to transfer their money to Soviet banks.

The authorities are now trying to ascertain whether the alleged "whispering campaign" believed to have been responsible for the runs on the banks can also be traced to Communist sources. The "Novy Mir," according to information revealed yesterday, said in its issue of July 26 that "the extreme economic crisis in the United States has forced the crash of hundreds of banks, and only in the Soviet Union are the savings of the toilers guaranteed by the untold riches and gigantic might of the toiling masses."

"The capitalist system," the article went on, "is doomed. The strongest Government in the word is the Soviet. The only country where there is no depression is the Soviet Union." It further advised its readers to transfer their funds to the Soviet Savings Bank "where they may be assured the money will not be lost, as there can be no crash of Soviet banks."

The runs on the banks are reported to-day as virtually ended, and withdrawals are about the usual for the time of year. There is no confirmation of the report that a group of banking interests is arranging to take over the Bank of the United States, and Mr. Max Steur, counsel for the Depositors' and Stockholders' Protective Association, stated last night that the officials of the closed bank flatly refused to guarantee any losses depositors may suffer in the liquidation of the bank's affairs.

FIGHT IN TRAIN.

SCOTS FROM CHICAGO UNDERWORLD.

BERLIN, Saturday.

Two prominent members of the Chicago underworld, Sam Semple, 21, born at Glasgow, and Robert Young, 19, born at Cowdenbeath, who had been expelled by the Chicago police and sent back to their native country, arrived at Bremen to-day. The captain of the steamer took precautions to see that the two were conducted to the Cologne train en route for England, and almost immediately they entered the compartment the two men started a violent quarrel which soon ended in blows.

In the course of the fight all the windows and lamps in the carriage were smashed. The train officials appeared to be helpless, and the police at the next station found the two men lying on the floor covered with blood, but still fighting, their clothes torn to ribbons. Both were so seriously injured that they had to be taken to hospital, where one remained unconscious for hours.

They are under the supervision of the police, who will see that they are repatriated as soon as they are sufficiently recovered.—Reuter.

Both men are still held at Osnabruck as being without money and unable to pay for the damage they caused. They are reported to have stated that they each drank a quart of rum before they started fighting.—Exchange.

FAUNA OF TIBET.

EXPEDITION'S FIVE YEARS' TASK.

SHANGHAI, Saturday.

Mr. F. T. Smith, of the Field Museum of Chicago, is now on his way to Szechuan, where he will head an expedition which will spend five years exploring the Chinese-Tibetan border and studying the little-known fauna of that region.

Mr. Smith arrived in China last August to complete the expedition's plans, and he was held up here for some time pending the permission of the National Government to carry on the work planned. He will be the only foreigner on the expedition, the others, five in number, being Chinese taxidermists and photographers. Native trappers and hunters will be secured in the wilds of Szechuan.

According to Mr. Smith, the expedition is designed to study the distribution of fauna right through south-eastern Asia, the undertaking being the first of its kind ever attempted. Mr. Smith and his party plan to spend six months in Szechuan, returning in June to ship specimens, etc., and then going back to the interior.

The immediate object of the party is to secure both living and dead specimens of the Giant Panda, the first of which the Roosevelt brothers discovered in the same geographical area for the same museum in 1928. They also want specimens of the Takin and golden-haired monkey.—Reuter.

EGGS ON A PILLION.

NOVEL INCIDENT ON MOTOR RELIABILITY TRIAL.

Many girls and young women accompanied the 300 competitors who drove through wind and rain of Friday night and yesterday morning on the Motor-Cycling Club's 250 mile winter relisibility trial from London to Exeter and back to Shaftesbury.

The steep and dangerous Devenish Pit was where most of the trouble on the first stage of the journey was met. A combination roaring up the hill skidded and turned over. The driver and girl passenger were unhurt. Another combination skidded into a ditch.

A dozen new laid eggs in an electrically lighted box on the pillion was the strange cargo carried by J. J. Boyd Harvey, the International motor cyclist. He carried them to win a personal bet.

"I have carried them to show how beautifully sprung the modern motor cycle may be, and the prospect of my omelette has made me doubly keen to keep them all intact," he stated to a Press representative.

George Brough, the International motor rider, who has taken part in sixteen similar trials and has won a gold medal on each occasion, took part. It was the first time that he had ridden a machine since his crash in the International Six-Days' Trial at Grenoble last August, when he had a leg broken and a shoulder dislocated.

The awards of gold, silver, and bronze medals will be made known in a week's time.

THE POPE'S INTEREST IN INDIA.

VATICAN CITY, Saturday.

The Pope to-day gave an audience on Monsignor Vieira de Castro, Patriarch of India and Archbishop of Goa. His Holiness inquired interestedly on affairs in Monsignor de Castro's archidiocese in the Portuguese settlement in India and on India in general.—Reuter.

CHRISTMAS-TREE FIGHT.

SCENE IN CATHEDRAL.

FIASCO OF COMMUNIST DEMONSTRATIONS.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

BERLIN, Saturday.

Christmas-time in Germany has been free from political disturbances. The Communists had organised so as not to be behind Moscow anti-Christmas demonstrations, and, as it was feared that services in churches would be interfered with, the police announced beforehand that they were everywhere on the alert.

As this Communist coup fell flat, an attempt was made to drive the unemployed through the streets on the pretence that attention should be called to the hungering masses, but the youths, who generally come forward for such work, obviously saw no chance of plundering, so the Communist leaders have still another fiasco to their credit. One man created some trouble in a Protestant cathedral on Christmas morning. Directly the congregation had assembled he walked up to the altar where a Christmas-tree stood with its candles lighted, and, turning to the congregation, exclaimed in a loud voice that he came in the name of Christ, who said: "My house is a house of prayer, and you have made it a den of thieves." Then declaring that the Christmas-tree had nothing to do with religion, but was a relic of heathenish practices, he threw it on to the ground.

By this time vergers and men from the congregation had run up and attempted to seize him, but the intruder fought like a madman, and was held in check only after he had kicked his assailants and injured one seriously by giving him a heavy blow in the face. It is believed the man is a sectarian.

LESS DRINKING.

Much less alcohol has been drunk over the holidays than usual, for people cannot afford such extravagance, so that the police were hardly needed to quell serious fights or quarrels. Eight persons committed suicide in Berlin during the holidays, mostly in desperation, and in nearly all cases with gas, while twenty-three persons were taken to hospitals in a serious condition owing to having attempted suicide. There were also many cases of petty burglary, mostly by unemployed youths who regard this as a pastime.

WINTER SPORTS.

The weather has been perfect, and very many thousands of Berliners have gone to the German mountains, where there is excellent snow for winter sport. Unfortunately an epidemic of grippe is spreading in Berlin. If treated in time, it is not serious, but otherwise the illness may have grave consequences, for it is always bronchial tubes that are attacked.

JEWS IN SPAIN.

FIRST SYNAGOGUE FOR 400 YEARS.

MADRID, Saturday.

The first legally recognised synagogue in Spain since the expulsion of the Jews from the country in 1492, has been opened in Madrid. The congregation consists of thirty families who have organised themselves, with the consent of the Government.

An official representative of the Madrid police was present at the opening ceremony. He read the terms of the protocol and the provisional statutes of the congregation, which were then formally signed.

Señor Bauer, who is a friend of King Alfonso (his daughter is a lady-in-waiting to the Queen), has been elected President of the Synagogue. It is as a result of his personal intervention with the King that the Jewish community has obtained this legal recognition. Despite opposition from the church, a section of the civil cemetery in Seville has been set aside for Jewish burials. —Reuter.

ALLEGED SLAVERY.

LIBERIAN POSITION TO BE DISCUSSED BY LEAGUE.

GENEVA, Saturday.

The British Government has addressed a letter to the Secretary-General of the League of Nations, requesting the inclusion in the agenda for the January session of the League Council of the discussion of the report of the Commission of Inquiry into the alleged existence of slavery and forced labour in Liberia.

This request has been carried out. The Commission of Inquiry was presided over by Dr. Cuthbert Christy (Britain), the other members being Messrs. Charles Johnson (United States) and a Liberian member.

Their report will be published on January 10.—Reuter.

FRENCH BOAT'S PERIL.

NAVAL PARTY'S VAIN RESCUE EFFORT.

A party of navel men from Portland yesterday failed to refloat the French ketch, Arquenon, which ran ashore in Weymouth Bay near the esplanade early on Christmas Day.

The plight of the Frenchmen attracted the attention of the Mayor of Weymouth (Captain F. W. Hamblin), who got in touch with the naval authorities at Portland. A pinnace from H.M.S. Tiger tried to tow the ketch off, and naval ratings manned the pumps of the Arquenon. They worked several hours in drizzling rain, but their efforts failed. The Arquenon refused to budge, and every tide is bringing her nearer to the esplanade.

BABY'S CRIES AS FIRE ALARM.

A TRAGEDY AVERTED.

BERLIN, Saturday.

A 4-years-old Berlin boy tried to light the candles on the Christmas tree while his parents were absent, but accidentally set fire to the curtains and to the tree.

He and his 3-years-old brother crept into bed and under the blankets, but a month-old baby cried so lustily that the neighbours were attracted, and, noting the smoke, called the fire brigade, who forced an entrance through the window.

All the children were found unconscious, but recovered quickly.—Exchange.

NO CHURCH TAX TO PAY.

BERLIN, Saturday.

Because the Communist demand for special winter assistance for the unemployed was voted down in the Duisburg Town Council by the representatives of the Catholic Centre Party, 200 men and women marched through the streets, headed by a band, to the local court, where they officially registered their retirement from the church.

This retirement will also absolve them from paying the Church tax.—Exchange.

SPANISH GOLD FOR ENGLAND.

MADRID, Saturday.

The Bank of Spain will, on January 1, send a further £1,000,000 in gold to the Bank of England in connection with the plan to enhance the value of the peseta.—Central News.

FOREIGN POLICY OF GREECE.

M. VENIZELOS'S LONG PILGRIMAGE.

VISIT TO VIENNA.

MEETING WITH SIGNOR MUSSOLINI.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

ATHENS, Saturday.

In answer to an old invitation from the Polish and Austrian Governments, the Greek Prime Minister, accompanied by Madame Venizelos and two secretaries, left Athens to-day to pay a visit to Warsaw and Vienna, in each of which places he will stay for two days.

Although courtesy is the main motive of the visits, M. Venizelos, during his stay in these capitals, will discuss several questions of considerable importance. Trade between Poland and Greece is steadily growing, and the utilisation by Poland of the Salonica "free zone" as an outlet to the Mediterranean will receive special attention. With this is connected the question of shortening the journey between Poland and Salonica by the construction of a new bridge over the Danube.

The proposed expenditure on and exact position of this bridge are matters of some dispute between Rumania and Bulgaria, and an understanding between Poland and Greece is expected to facilitate a Rumano-Bulgarian agreement.

In Vienna M. Venizelos will sign an amity and arbitration treaty between Greece and Austria, but it is denied here that he will participate in the Austrian capital in any conference aiming at a revision of the peace Treaties. His visit to Vienna is expected to coincide with that of Signor Grandi, the Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs.

On his way to Central Europe, M. Venizelos will stop a few hours in Belgrade to pay a visit to King Alexander of Yugo-Slavia (he is expected also to meet M. Marinkovitch, the Yugo-Slavian Minister of Foreign Affairs), and on his return he will pass through Rome to have an interview with Signor Mussolini.

CHINESE RULE IN WEI-HAI-WEI.

"A WITHERING BLOW."

SHANGHAI, Saturday.

The contrast between British and Chinese rule is strikingly brought out in an article in the Manchuria "Daily News," a Japanese paper published at Dairen, commenting unfavourably on the administration of Wei-Hai-Wei since its return to China.

Under British rule Wei-Hai-Wei was a free port. Soon after its retrocession became a *fait accompli*, says the Manchuria "Daily News," a branch of the Chinese Maritime Customs was opened there, and, because of the taxation and other duties it imposed, the once-prosperous trade of the port "has suffered a withering blow."

The paper recalls that, prior to its retrocession, the Chinese merchants in Wei-Hai-Wei repeatedly asked the Chinese Government to scale down the Customs Tariff, pleading that it would reflect ignominiously upon China to allow the trade of Wei-Hai-Wei to shrink immediately upon its return to her. These appeals were in vain, and even a cargo-workers' strike failed to achieve the desired end, "much to the dejection of the Chinese inhabitants."

The paper says in conclusion: "The handing over of a ready-made first-class port at Tsingtau had disappointing results, and the surrender of Wei-Hai-Wei—a smaller affair and therefore an easier test—seems to promise equal disappointment. As earnests of China's good intentions regarding the maintenance of Shanghai, they are not very impressive."—Reuter.

ISLE OF MAN FLOOD.

LAXEY RIVER REPEATS SEPTEMBER HAVOC.

Severe floods occurred yesterday at the foot of Snaefell Mountain, Isle of Man, following a terrific rainstorm. Laxey River in half an hour became a raging torrent, which tore away part of the Glen road and invaded several houses, occupiers having to take refuge in the upper rooms.

The Laxey was the cause of disastrous flooding in September, and part of the sandbag protective works erected then was carried away yesterday.

Deferred Terms arranged over 1, 2 or 3 years as desired.

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LADIES' OVERCOATS as sketch, and other S.B. and D.B. belted and unbelted models, tailored from fine quality Tweeds and Saxonies. Usually 8 to 12 Gns. SALE PRICE 84/-

LADIES' OVERCOATS—S.B. models in Weatherproofed Urbitor Coatings. Usual Price 8½ Gns. SALE PRICE 5 GNS

TAILORED COSTUMES for Town or Country, in Saxonies and Worsteds. Usual Price 10 to 14 Gns. SALE PRICE 6½ GNS

FULL SALE LIST detailing thousands of other bargains, sent on mention of SUNDAY TIMES.

NEXT WEEK—Dec. 29 to Jan 2—OPEN UNTIL 7 O'CLOCK EACH EVENING.

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"THE ROSE" CRETONNE. A charming design of roses on Beige. Yellow or Green ground. Exclusive to Harvey Nichols. 31 ins. wide. Original Price 2/11. SALE PRICE, per yard 1/11

2302. "GLADIOLUS & DELPHINIUM" CRETONNE. A most artistic design in soft colours on Beige, Green, or Cream ground. Exclusive to Harvey Nichols. This fabric is 60% linen. 31 ins. wide. Original Price 3/11. SALE PRICE, per yard 2/3

5213. UPHOLSTERY DAMASK. In Green, Blue, Fawn Crimson, or Black; all fadeless colours. Exclusive to Harvey Nichols. 50 ins. wide. Original Price 7/11. SALE PRICE, per yard 5/11

5191. BROCATELLE. 400 yards only. For curtains and upholstery etc. In Crimson/Gold, Blue/Gold, Jade/Gold. 50 ins. wide. Original Price 14/9. SALE PRICE, per yard 9/11

HARVEY NICHOLS & CO. LTD. OF KNIGHTSBRIDGE WINTER SALE BEGINS WEDNESDAY NEXT

HARVEY NICHOLS have only two Sales in the year; and the amazing bargains offered are in every case goods from their regular stock, and of their usual standard of excellence. Price-reductions for the present Sale are exceptionally sweeping

SALE BARGAINS IN FURNISHING FABRICS

3479. "JACOBEAN" LINEN. In a delightful design on grounds of Cream, Stone or Fawn. Pure linen of good quality. 31 ins. wide. Original Price 3/9. SALE PRICE, per yard 2/6

HAND-BLOCKED PRINTED LINENS in a big selection of charming old English floral designs, in many different colourings. 50 ins. wide. Original Price 12/9. SALE PRICE, per yard 6/11

O.197. JASPÉ REPP. 2,000 yards. An exceptionally hard-wearing fabric for curtains and loose covers. In soft pastel shades. 50 ins. wide. Original Price 4/11. SALE PRICE, per yard 2/6

5475. FADELESS VELOUR. Specially made for Harvey Nichols, in twelve shades, including Rose Beige, Orange, Gold, Dark Blue, Petunia Olive, Brown, etc. 48 ins. wide. Original Price 6/11. SALE PRICE, per yard 3/11

PLAIN SEAMLESS PILE CARPETS AT HALF PRICE

(BRITISH MANUFACTURE)

13 ft. 6 ins. x 9 ft. 3 ins. Plain Brown Seamless Axminster. Usual Price, £14 0 0. Reduced to £7. 0 0

13 ft. 6 ins. x 11 ft. 4 ins. Plain Petunia Seamless Axminster. Usual Price, £17 0 0. Reduced to 8.10.0

11 ft. 0 ins. x 10 ft. 6 ins. Tangerine, Black Inset Band Border, Seamless Axminster. Usual Price, £18 18 0. Reduced to 9. 9.0

13 ft. 0 ins. x 10 ft. 6 ins. Plain Beige Seamless Axminster. Usual Price £21 0 0. Reduced to 10.10 0

13 ft. 6 ins. x 10 ft. 6 ins. Golden Brown Seamless Pile. Usual Price, £21 10 0. Reduced to 10.15.0

18 ft. 11 ins. x 9 ft. 0 ins. Plain Blue Seamless Axminster. Usual Price, £25 10 0. Reduced to 12.15.0

16 ft. 6 ins. x 10 ft. 6 ins. Plain Blue, Darker Band Border, Seamless Axminster. Usual Price, £29 10 0 Reduced to 14.15.0

18 ft. 0 ins. x 11 ft. 0 ins. Plain Nigger-Brown Heavy Seamless Pile. Usual Price, £31 0 0. Reduced to £15.10.0

18 ft. 0 ins. x 12 ft. 4 ins. Plain Dark Fawn Centre, Green Band Border, Seamless Axminster. Usual Price, £35 0 0. Reduced to 17.10.0

21 ft. 0 ins. x 12 ft. 0 ins. Plain Blue, Lighter Blue Inse Band Border, Seamless Axminster. Usual Price, £35 0 0. Reduced to 17.10.0

18 ft. 0 ins. x 15 ft. 0 ins. Plain Fawn Seamless Pile Usual Price, £35 0 0. Reduced to 17.10.0

18 ft. 6 ins. x 12 ft. 0 ins. Tone on Tone Helio with Line Border Seamless Axminster. Usual Price £37 10 0. Reduced to 18.15.0

14 ft. 0 ins. x 12 ft. 0 ins. Soft Old Rose, Heavy Wool Back, Seamless Axminster. Usual Price, £42 10 0. Reduced to 21. 5.0

24 ft. 0 ins. x 18 ft. 0 ins. Plain Green Seamless Axminster. Usual Price, £65 0 0. Reduced to 32.10.0

These are a few examples only from a very comprehensive range. Every Carpet is perfect in quality, and all are quoted subject to being unsold.

NEW LAWS FOR NEW YEAR.

FREEDOM FOR SOME MOTORISTS.

RESTRICTIONS FOR OTHERS.

NO SHOP SHAVES ON SUNDAYS.

New laws which come into force on New Year's Day affect motorists, income-tax payers, Sunday barbers and their customers, mental patients, poor prisoners, and unemployed persons whose health insurance expires at the end of this year.

Most of the new legislation imposes new duties and responsibilities upon the local authorities who will be actively concerned in the administration of the Road Traffic Act, the Mental Treatment Act, and the Hairdressers' and Barbers' Shops (Sunday Closing) Act.

Income-tax payers are now receiving in the form of demand notes reminders that Mr. Snowden's Budget last April increased the income-tax from 4s. to 4s. 6d. in the £. The higher rate comes into operation with the January instalment. Some taxpayers in the lower range of incomes benefit by the change, despite the increase in the standard rate of tax.

The explanation is that the first £250 of the taxable income is now chargeable at 2s. in the pound, instead of £225 at half the standard rate.

THE SPEED LIMITS.

For motorists the new speed laws and compulsory insurance against third party risks come into force on January 1. The abolition of the speed limit applies only to the light private car and the motor-cycle.

All other motor vehicles—cars seated for more than seven passengers, buses, coaches, light vans, goods carriers, lorries, tractors, and vehicles of any kind with trailers—will be subject to speed limits which the authorities intend to enforce. Motor coach firms throughout the country are revising their time-tables to meet the requirements of the Act.

On New Year's Day it will become unlawful for any person to use or permit any other person to use a motor vehicle on the road unless a policy of insurance against third-party risks is in force. The penalty for failure to insure is a fine of £50 or three months' imprisonment or both, and the offender must be disqualified for holding a licence for twelve months unless the court thinks fit for special reasons to order otherwise.

Drivers must carry their certificates of insurance and produce them on the demand of a police-constable. From January 1 certificates must also be produced when applying for motor-vehicle licences.

Other provisions of the Road Traffic Act which come into force on January 1 concern the licensing and regulation of public-service vehicles, and applications by local authorities to the Traffic Commissioners for consent to run public-service vehicles on new routes outside their areas.

SUNDAY SHAVES.

The legislation for which Mr. James Stewart, the hairdresser M.P. for St. Rollox, Glasgow, was responsible last session comes into force on January 1. It provides for the compulsory closing of hairdressers' and barbers' shops on Sundays.

The Act permits Jewish barbers to open on Sundays provided they do not carry on business on Saturdays. The penalty for a first offence is a fine of £2 and for a second offence £20.

The Poor Prisoners' Defence Act, operative from January 1, makes better provision for the defence of poor persons in criminal cases. The Act provides for free legal aid for poor persons committed for trial, and also before the courts of summary jurisdiction.

The Mental Treatment Act, which comes into force on January 1, contains many provisions that are regarded as an important advance in the treatment of mental disease.

The new Act for the first time authorises the reception of voluntary patients into public mental hospitals. A still more important feature, in the opinion of the Board of Control, is the provision for temporary treatment of non-volitional patients on the recommendation of two medical practitioners and without the intervention of any judicial authority. This provision, according to the Board, marks a striking advance in the assimilation of the treatment of mental treatment to that of physical illness.

Another important change is the statutory recognition of the out-patient clinic, and local authorities are now empowered to provide such clinics.

By the Prolongation of Insurance Act, passed by Parliament a week ago, the Government has undertaken to pay the health insurance contributions of some 60,000 to 100,000 unemployed persons who would otherwise have lost their health insurance and widows pensions rights at the end of this year.

These people have all been unemployed for two and a-half years or more, and by the provisions of the Act they will be retained in insurance for another year. The extra cost to the State will be about £100,000.

THIRD PARTY RISKS.

CERTIFICATES MUST BE PRODUCED.

Some confusion which appears to exist in regard to the taking out of motor-vehicle excise licences and the necessity for producing insurance certificates in respect of third party risks was cleared up yesterday by the L.C.C. taxation authorities.

It has been the practice of the L.C.C. for some years to issue licences for the New Year during the last fourteen days in December, and it is this that is causing uncertainty.

An official of the L.C.C. pointed out yesterday that a motorist applying on or before December 31 for an excise licence for any period in 1931 need not produce the insurance certificate required under Part II. of the new Road Traffic Act.

While there is no necessity to produce the certificate in these circumstances and the Excise authorities would not demand to see them subsequently, the motorist is not, of course, relieved of the responsibility of complying with the law in this respect. It should be borne in mind that drivers might have to produce their certificates for police inspection.

An R.A.C. official said yesterday that it is certain that most motorists have now got their insurance certificates.

Referring to a report that there may be an increase in premiums later on, he said there was no reason to anticipate this. If any increase did come about he thought it would be due to payments made to hospitals.

The Act entitles a hospital to charge expenses up to £25 reasonably incurred in affording treatment to persons injured in an accident arising out of the use of a motor-vehicle.

CARNIVAL FOR 30,000 CHILDREN.

Councillor T. J. Blacketer, Mayor of Poplar, and the Children's Carnival Fund Committee are entertaining on New Year's Day 30,000 children of the borough to a carnival. The children will be entertained at twenty-one centres, both morning and afternoon.

All the funds are raised by voluntary assistance, but a sum of £300 is still required. Donations to the fund, to which the King has given his patronage, should be sent to the Town Clerk (Hon. Treasurer), Council Offices, 117, High Street, Poplar.

DEATH WATCH AT SUNRISE.

ARTIST'S FALL FROM WINDOW.

HOLIDAY TRAGEDIES.

How a Sidmouth artist had a fatal fall while watching the sunrise was related at an inquest at Exeter yesterday, on the body of Albert Edward White (66), who died in hospital on Christmas Eve from severe injuries, including a fracture of the base of the skull.

The widow said that on Christmas Eve her husband was standing by an open window in his coat, trousers, and pyjamas. Later she saw him fall out of the window. He often looked out of the window to see the colours of the sunrise. He suffered from giddiness, and sometimes in the street his legs trembled.

Mr. W. M. White, solicitor, of London, said his brother told him at the hospital that he fell out of the window, and that it was purely an accident.

A verdict of accidental death was returned.

DROWNED DURING FOG.

Despite the protests of his relatives, James George Miller (77) left his home in Boathouse Walk, Peckham, during the dense fog last Monday night, to collect a bottle of port which he had won in a Christmas draw. He did not return, and next day his body was found floating in the Grand Surrey Canal, about thirty yards from his home.

Recording a verdict of death by misadventure at the inquest at Camberwell yesterday, Mr. Douglas Cowburn said that there was no suggestion of suicide.

PARENTS' VIGIL.

A father and mother's Christmas morning vigil for the return of their son was described at Liverpool yesterday, when the inquest was opened and adjourned on the body of Sydney J. Burkey (26), of Ferngrove Lodge Lane, Liverpool, a Corporation clerk, who was killed when a motor-car in which he was riding came into collision with a motor-van near Anfield Cemetery.

John Charles Burkey, a Customs officer, and father of the dead man, said that the son left home on Christmas Eve to visit a hairdresser's. "We expected him to be late, as it was Christmas Eve," said the father. "His mother and I sat up waiting for him to return, and in the early hours of Christmas morning we were informed that our son had met with a serious accident. I went to hospital, and there found him dead."

GERMAN GIRL FOUND HANGED.

A 21-year-old German girl was found hanged in a tree at Ombersley, near Worcester, on Boxing night. She was Fraulein Angelika Riegel, a native of Bremen, who had been living with Mrs. Pheysey at Ombersley for the past month, giving her services in the house in return for a home.

She was found in the orchard hanging by a thin cord, and her feet were actually touching the ground.

CLERK'S SUICIDE.

FIANCEE'S STATEMENT AT INQUEST.

"Some time ago he told me he had broken with her, but I found letters came from her," said Mrs. Hyde, at the inquest at Shalford, near Guildford, yesterday, on the body of her son, Frederick Allen Hyde (30), a builder's clerk, who was found on the railway line, on Christmas morning, at Bramley, with his head severed.

Miss Annie Emily Godwin, of Farncombe, said she had known Hyde several years and they were engaged. He was with her on Christmas Eve and, when he left about eleven o'clock at night, he was singing going down the drive. They made arrangements about meeting again during the week end.

Asked by the coroner (Mr. G. Wills Taylor) if he at any time had threatened to take his life, she said that one day he said that nobody seemed to want him and he would do himself in. That was some time ago, after they had become engaged.

Miss Godwin said that she went to Hyde's home seven years ago; friendship with him was broken off for a month, and they then made it up again. He said he felt he loved his mother and her (Miss Godwin) and didn't know what to do. They were engaged last May, and were to be married in June.

A police witness said the body was found near a private crossing on the railway, and Dr. McGlashan said that Hyde was a wealthy young man and "a star turn at football and cricket."

A verdict of suicide during temporary insanity was returned.

"ETERNAL TIREDNESS."

YOUNG MAN'S DIARY NOTES BEFORE SUICIDE.

The Scarborough Christmas Day beach tragedy was investigated yesterday at the inquest on the body of Henry Isaac Poyser (17), a tailor's cutter, son of Nathan Poyser, wholesale wool merchant, of Sheepscar, Leeds, whose body was recovered from the sea on Christmas morning. A verdict of suicide while of unsound mind was recorded.

The youth was stated by his father to have suffered from debility for the last twelve months. He complained that he was always tired, but would never see a doctor. Having ceased work at noon on Christmas Eve, he left home after dinner and, as he had not returned next morning, the police were notified.

Remarkable extracts from a small book found in his clothing were read. One was: "Xmas Eve: Save all money; go to Scarborough by train. On Wednesday, commit suicide by going through the railings on Marine Drive at high tide. Smoke in train."

In another extract he mentioned the number of cheroots he used to smoke in a train, and added: "Five shillings roughly for smoking on seaside trip to Scarborough."

Another read: "H. Poyser. December 24, 1930, aged 17, committed suicide. Reasons in prospect, eternal tiredness, excessive morbidness, ultra-super excessive nervousness."

Evidence was given that death was due to drowning.

SHOP-RAIDER'S ESCAPE.

RESCUED FROM CUSTODY BY TWO CONFEDERATES IN CAR.

Discovering early yesterday that the door of a lock-up refreshment shop in Burdett Road, Bow, was open, a policeman entered and took into custody a man who was inside.

Just after the officer and his captive had left the shop, two men jumped from a car and pushed the policeman aside. In the struggle which followed a jemmy was thrown at the constable, but missed him. As the men ran towards the car the officer threw his truncheon at them, but all three succeeded in entering the vehicle and driving away.

POLICE LINGUISTS.

BERLIN, Saturday.

The number of Berlin policemen who speak English and are qualified as interpreters has now risen to 130. They are stationed at railway stations and leading traffic centres, and are distinguished by red arm-bands with the word "interpreter."

Many members of the Berlin force also speak French, Russian, Polish, Scandinavian, and other languages, and the special language classes are highly popular.—Exchange.

THE STOPPING TRAMCAR.

MOTORISTS WHO DO NOT WAIT.

NO ACTION BY MR. MORRISON.

SAFEGUARDS IN THE NEW CODE.

Correspondence between Mr. Herbert Morrison, Minister of Transport, and Mr. Holford Knight, K.C., M.P. (Recorder of West Ham), on the subject of accidents to tram passengers, was issued yesterday.

Mr. Knight drew attention to the frequency of accidents caused by vehicles overtaking passengers being taken on or set down by trams and buses, and suggested that the matter should be dealt with in the Highway Code or by the powers of the Minister under the Road Traffic Act to make additional Orders on application by a town or district council.

WHAT THE CODE SAYS.

In his reply Mr. Morrison quotes the following paragraph from the draft Highway Code:—

> Subject to any local provisions to the contrary, tramcars may be overtaken on the near side, but in this case special caution is necessary. Watch carefully to see if passengers are boarding the tramcar or alighting from it before you pass; in any case, go slow.

Mr. Morrison continues, "As regards omnibuses setting down or picking up passengers, I cannot imagine there is any special danger from overtaking traffic, as these vehicles can and should draw up to the kerb on such occasions.

"I am advised that I have the power on the application of councils of counties or county boroughs or of urban districts having a population of over 20,000, according to the last census from the time being, to make an order under section 46 (2) (d) of the Road Traffic Act, 1930, dealing with the control of motor cars at tramway stopping places, but I do not propose to exercise my powers in this respect as I consider that the matter is more suitably dealt with in the highway code.

DRIVER'S LIABILITY.

"I would point out that if any driver actually endangers a person boarding or alighting from a tramcar, he would be liable to proceedings for dangerous driving, while if he did not actually endanger anyone but did not show consideration, he could be proceeded against for careless driving."

Commenting on this reply, Mr. Knight said: "The code will be a worthy monument of Mr. Morrison's good intentions, but the safety of the roads may involve the additional safeguards the statute provides.

"I take the Minister's letter to mean he would consider suggestions for strengthening the code. In any event local authorities will have in reserve the right to apply for a further order to ensure public safety."

COLLIDED WITH A MOTOR-CAR.

POLICE CYCLIST KILLED

Police-Constable Hugh Miller, attached to the Robin Hood Police Station of the Birmingham City Police, died in the General Hospital, Birmingham, yesterday from injuries received when he collided with a motor-car in the Stratford Road, Birmingham, when cycling home from duty.

While crossing New Kent Road yesterday with her 2-year-old daughter Joan, Mrs. H. MacDonald (47), of Faraday Street, Walworth, was knocked down by a taxicab, and was found to be dead at Guy's Hospital, where she and her daughter were taken. The child had cuts on her forehead.

Ernest Allen, a milk roundsman, of Hambledon, Hampshire, has died in Portsmouth Hospital from injuries received in collision with a motor-lorry while he was riding a bicycle on Christmas Day.

Three people were injured when a car overturned after colliding with another car at Manor Lane, Lee, yesterday. Louis Jacob (32), of West Wickham, Kent, whose hand was lacerated; his daughter Patricia Jacob (3), who had a cut face; and Miss Doris England (29), who had an abrasion of the leg, were taken to Lewisham Hospital.

SEVEN IN CRASH AT BEXHILL.

Seven people were involved in alarming smash yesterday at Bexhill. A saloon car driven by Miss Fletcher, of Bexhill, and another saloon car driven by Mr. Griffiths, of Woking, collided with great force.

Mr. Griffiths's car was flung many yards into a fence, landing upside down. Miss Fletcher escaped injury, but Miss Cooper, in Mr. Griffiths's car, was taken to hospital, and his nephew, son, and sister-in-law were pinned underneath the overturned car. He himself and his wife were unhurt.

AFTER THE MATCH.

"BARBARIAN'S" RIDE IN A BORROWED CAR.

A member of the Barbarians football team, which on Friday played against Leicester, James Stanley Poore Reeve, of Tenbury, Worcestershire, was charged at Leicester Police Court, yesterday, with taking a motor-car away without the owner's consent.

Evidence was given that the car was taken from a parking place in Charles Street. Reeve drove the car back late on Friday night, and when asked for an explanation said, he met a girl whom he knew in Leicester, who told him she had borrowed the car. He took her for a drive and afterwards took the car back.

Reeve went into the box and corroborated this.

The Chairman: It was a foolish thing to do, but as this is the first case in Leicester under the new Act, we will bind you over for twelve months in the sum of £10.

G.K.C. AND PROHIBITION

"AN IMMORAL THING."

NEW YORK, Saturday.

Mr. G. K. Chesterton, who is now on a lecture tour in the United States, gave his views on companionate marriage and prohibition.

As to companionate marriage, he said: "I prefer civilised institutions to barbaric customs."

"Prohibition is an immoral thing," he declared. "If it had been a success, it would have been a wicked success—a success of the devil."—Reuter.

DIED FROM HIS OWN KICK.

Frederick Alfred Johnson, aged 11, of Perth Street, Stepney, while walking, kicked and grazed his left heel with his right foot. He died in hospital, and at the inquest yesterday it was stated that his death was the result of inflammation of the bone.

BUSY DOCTOR'S DEATH.

When an inquest was held at Scarborough yesterday on Dr. J. A. Hutton (65), who was found dead in bed, it was stated that for some time he had worked very hard. He had about 2,000 panel patients, and was also doctor for hundreds of others. A verdict of "Death from heart failure was recorded."

WOMAN CASHIER TRICKED.

HUSBAND TAKES KEYS AND STEALS £229.

EMPLOYERS' ROBBED.

A husband's mean trick on a sleeping wife was described at Tower Bridge yesterday when Charles Henry Adrian Saunders, 22, naval telegraphist, of St. Agnes Place, Kennington, was charged on remand on his own confession with breaking and entering a building in Tower Bridge Road and stealing £229 from a safe, the money of Messrs. Best, butchers. The charge was reduced to one of larceny, to which accused pleaded guilty.

Evidence given last week showed that Saunders, who was home on leave, and had spent the night with his wife, a cashier at Messrs. Best's shop, got up early on the pretence that he was returning to Chatham, took the keys of the shop from her bag without her knowledge, went to the shop, took the money, and returned home, telling her that he had been refused admission to the railway as he was not in uniform. He returned her keys without her knowledge, and later went back to Chatham, where he bought a motor-bicycle for £58.

The Master-at-Arms now said Saunders told him he had secreted £130 in a wallet in the wireless outfit. He informed his superior officer, and with him searched the wireless set, the men, and the ship. They found no trace of the money, but discovered the wallet (produced).

Saunders: The Master-at-Arms said he would try to find the money and hold it till the affair had blown over."

Witness: Nothing of the sort. My superior officer was with me the whole time.

The Magistrate (Mr. Oulton): "There are two good features in this case: that you have not been convicted before and that you have borne a good character. The bad ones are: that, having committed this theft, you cast suspicion on your wife and then on the Master-at-Arms. I can do no less than send you to prison for five months, with hard labour.

PEASANTS REVOLT IN RUSSIA.

A WARSAW REPORT.

WARSAW, Saturday.

The Polish newspaper "Kurjer Czerwony," of Warsaw, publishes the following from Vilna:—

"According to news received from the frontier, the revolt of the peasants in the vicinity of Minsk is developing on a rather large scale. From the reports of the Political Intelligence Section in Moscow it appears that the number of the insurgents is about 2,000. They are with smaller groups of about twenty-five as an advance guard.

"The efforts of the Soviet authorities to quell this movement are meeting with great difficulties, because local inhabitants are favourably disposed to the insurgents and help them to hide in the woods. The suppression of the insurrection has been entrusted to the special mounted and ski section of the Ogpu.

"During the past two weeks the insurgents have attacked over a hundred Soviet institutions and even some small bodies of troops. They have robbed two post office vans and have killed fifteen Communists and ten soldiers. Up to December 15 ninety-five rebels had been shot and 260 had been deported to the Archangel penal camps.

"The Soviet authorities have issued a reward of money and goods for insurgents, dead or alive. The offer of goods as well as money is, of course, owing to the superior attractions of the former."—Reuter.

IMPRISONED POLISH DEPUTIES.

ALLEGED ILL-TREATMENT.

WARSAW, Saturday.

The allegations of ill-treatment of the sixty Polish Deputies who were arrested several months ago and placed in a military prison at Brest Litovsk, have led to a demand that army officers responsible for any ill-treatment should be punished.

The demand is made under the names of a number of professors at the Universities at Warsaw, Cracow and Poznan, and other schools of a technical character. The treatment of the deputies is playing a big part in Poland's political life.—Exchange.

DEATH AFTER ARREST.

MAN WHO WAS CHARGED WITH BEING DRUNK.

It was stated at Brighton Police Court yesterday that Henry Clements, who was to have been charged with being drunk and incapable, had died since arrest.

Inspector Parry said that the man was arrested on Christmas Eve. He was so ill that he was taken to hospital. He was then taken to the police station and was subsequently removed again to the hospital, where he died.

GROWTH OF PRIMROSE LEAGUE.

11,000 NEW MEMBERS.

Eleven thousand new members joined the Primrose League during 1930, it is stated in a review of the League's activities issued by the secretary, Sir Reginald Bennett.

A remarkable advance was made by the junior branch of the League. The Sing-Competition at the Caxton Hall attracted more children's choirs than ever before. The Sports Festival and Pageant of Empire at the Crystal Palace in June was a new and successful extension of activities.

Notable pronouncements on Conservative policy were made by Mr. Baldwin at the League meeting at the Albert Hall in April, and by Mr. Amery at the annual banquet.

TRAGEDY OF DESPAIR.

A STARVING WOMAN'S DEATH.

Dr. A. L. Baley, of Lambeth Hospital, giving evidence at an inquest at North Lambeth yesterday on Marie Rivett, aged 51, of no home, who died in the hospital, told Mr. Douglas Cowburn, the coroner, that she was taken ill in the street. She was, he added, in an emaciated condition, and appeared to be starving. She was also suffering from chronic bronchial pneumonia.

George Rivett, of Camberwell, a jobbing gardener, said that he had heard nothing of his sister for twenty years. Earlier in life she was a barmaid.

The Coroner, recording a verdict in accordance with the medical evidence, said: "No money, no home, apparently no friends, hopeless and homeless."

FEUD MURDER IN LUXEMBOURG.

LUXEMBOURG, Saturday.

An Italian carpenter, named Bernard Massorano, was yesterday found shot in the back at Esch. It is supposed that the crime has some connection with Fascist and anti-Fascist feuds.—Reuter.

"ANGLIC."

NEW LANGUAGE FOR THE WORLD.

PURE ENGLISH.

SIMPLIFIED SPELLING SYSTEM.

By A STOCKHOLM CORRESPONDENT.

A new world language, called "Anglic," has been launched by R. E. Zachrisson, professor of the English language at the Upsala University.

This new tongue is not, like its predecessors, an artificial language, but pure English, although with a highly simplified system of spelling. An organisation, called the Anglic Fund, with its seat in Upsala, has been created, and a special journal, "The Anglic Eduekaeshonal Revue," has been founded.

"English in Easy Spelling" and "World English in Easy Spelling" are the titles of two pamphlets explaining the underlying idea.

Anglic is a drastic attempt to reach what the Simplified Spelling Society in Great Britain and the Spelling Reform Associations in the United States of America have long worked for. Professor Zachrisson, who is a specialist on middle English, points out that Thomas Smith, Queen Elizabeth's Chancellor, already in 1560 tried to reform the English spelling, and in 1580 Bullokar brought out another spelling programme.

Since then about seventy different systems have been worked out. The reason why they all failed was that the reformers wanted to spell English phonetically, thus causing a definite break with old English spelling traditions. Instead of doing this, Professor Zachrisson has examined the forty-two English sounds spelt in 500 different ways, and has been able to find out statistically which is the most frequent spelling of a certain sound.

SOUND EXAMPLES.

Thus, for instance, the sound *i* is most often spelt *ie*, and this spelling, therefore, in Anglic becomes the rule for the present-day *i*, thus: Friday, Friedae; ride, ried; buy, bie; right, riet; height, hiet; fright, friet; like, liek; etc. In this way the present-day eighteen different spellings of that sound have been reduced to one.

Some months ago the professor started five courses in English, based on his spelling system, with some groups of Swedish pupils, previously ignorant of English. After twenty lessons of ninety minutes each his pupils were able to read, write, and converse fluently in English, although their vocabulary was, of course, restricted. Representatives of the State School Board, present at the final examination, expressed their surprise and admiration, and it was even found that the pupils used to the new spelling had only small difficulty in reading English spelt in the usual way.

LORD CECIL'S SUPPORT.

The Anglo-Saxon spelling reform organisations, both in Great Britain and in the United States, have expressed their sympathy with the new spelling programme, and an agreement was last summer signed by Professor Daniel Jones, Professor Walter Ripman (Great Britain), Professor Crandgent and Dr. Dewey (U.S.A.) and by Professor Zachrisson jointly to promote the spreading of Anglic instead of other spelling systems.

Lord Cecil, Professor Gilbert Murray, Professor Krapp (U.S.A.), and several other prominent men have declared in favour of Anglic, and affiliated societies will in a short time be formed in all civilised countries for the purpose of making Anglic the dominating universal world language.

SIGNALMAN'S DEATH AT HIS POST.

UNHEEDED WARNING.

Giving evidence at an inquest at Stretton-under-Fosse, Warwickshire, yesterday, on William Thomas Witherby (57), a railway signalman, who was found dead in his signal-box at Brinklow, on the L.M.S. main line between Rugby and Nuneaton, a doctor said he had warned Witherby that he was liable to heart attacks and had advised him not to go to the signal-box again.

It was explained to the coroner that there was no danger to traffic from a signalman being suddenly incapacitated because no train would pass unless it was accepted. In the event of any delay in acceptance it was the duty of the fireman of the train to go to the signal-box to see what was the matter. This was what had happened in the present case.

A verdict of death from natural causes was returned.

A SAD SHARE-OUT.

£328 SLATE CLUB FUNDS STOLEN.

For stealing £328 belonging to a slate club of which he had charge, Charles Frederick Beament, 59, was sentenced at Windsor yesterday to six months' imprisonment with hard labour. He said he got into arrears last year, and had had to borrow money to pay out at Christmas and had never recovered.

A police-constable said as a result of his stealing the money many poor people received only 10s. instead of £1, and the scene at the share-out was a very sad one.

The Chairman of the Bench (Sir Frederick Dyson) said he thought some stricter supervision of such clubs should be made necessary by law, as it was a terrible thing for poor people to save money in this way and then lose it.

SCOTTISH SHIPYARDS.

OUTPUT 27,000 TONS LESS THAN LAST YEAR.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

GLASGOW, Saturday.

Despite the industrial depression, the Scottish shipyards' output for 1930 will be about 600,000 tons, only 27,000 tons less than last year.

The latter half of the year has been marked by the absence of many orders, so that there will not be a big volume of work to carry over into 1931. One reason for this is that the flow of contracts for oil tankers has stopped.

The most outstanding contract of the year has been that by the Cunard Company, placed with John Brown's, of Clydebank, for a liner of 70,000 tons which, when completed, will be the largest in the world. The construction of this vessel will give employment to several thousand men in the shipbuilding, engineering, and allied industries.

ISLEWORTH MYSTERY.

Further inquiries regarding the death of Mrs. Annie Lawes (55), of Queen's Terrace, Isleworth, lead to the conclusion that she had probably been dead for nearly two days before her body was found by the police in her room on Friday.

She was last seen on Christmas morning, and apparently the cause of death was injuries to the head.

The date of the inquest has not yet been fixed. The body when found was propped against a chest of drawers.

The police are continuing their investigations.

WORLD EXPORT TRADE.

6 PER CENT. DECREASE IN VOLUME.

GERMANY REGAINING MARKETS.

The steady growth of international commerce has been interrupted this year for the first time since 1921 by a net decrease of about 8 per cent. in the volume of the world's export trade, according to the annual analysis of international trade issued by the American Foreign Trade Council.

The Council, however, emphasises the fact that, despite the present decrease, international trade, as expressed in world exports, is still about 16 per cent. greater in volume than in 1925.

World export trade for 1930, according to figures up to December 1, for nations carrying half the world's commerce, indicate that the export trade of 101 nations will be about £4,500,000,000. The total exports for these countries for 1929 was £4,885,400,000, both figures being reduced to the common index of 1913 prices.

EUROPEAN POSITION.

A notable fact of the world's business is that European trade has been less affected by the present depression than that of any other part of the world. The actual volume of Europe's export business has remained very close to the 1929 figure, though its trade is less than last year's in current money value. This is almost entirely due to the fall in prices. In 1929 the aggregate export trade of twenty-seven European countries had reached 99 per cent. of its 1913 volume. The figures reported by the various Governments place the 1929 total at £2,399,000,000, compared with the £2,399,200,000 actually reported in 1913.

The outstanding element in this progress has been the rehabilitation of Germany, whose export trade has increased enormously. Great Britain, in 1929, came to within 5 per cent. of her 1913 export volume, and all other nations of western Europe, with the exception of Holland, have a substantially increased volume of exports over the pre-war year.

In 1930, France, Russia, Rumania, the Irish Free State, and a number of other European countries, have actually gained ground in the volume of their exports.

Germany is within 1 or 2 per cent. of her 1929 exports, while British exports, in spite of heavy losses early in the year, are only 10 per cent. less than 1929. In fact, Europe as a whole took more than 90 per cent. of the amount of American exports she bought in 1929.

The volume of United States exports has fallen off from those of 1929 by approximately 15 per cent. during the first ten months of this year. They are still, however, 35 per cent. greater in volume than before the war, and about level with the 1926 figures.

CANADA AND AUSTRALIA.

The decreases in world export trade this year have been almost entirely in the countries which chiefly produce raw materials. Both Canada and Japan have suffered losses in excess of 10 per cent. South American exports, notably those of Brazil and the Argentine, have decreased this year by more than 10 per cent., and the nations of Latin America in general continued to see a diminution of exports which, with few exceptions, had already appeared in 1929. Latin America, however, is still selling its products abroad in fully 20 per cent. greater volume than before the war, states the New York correspondent of the British United Press.

Asia, which provides one and three-quarter times the exports of Latin America, by the end of 1929 had increased the volume of its exports since 1913 by 60 per cent. Although Japan, China, India, and the Dutch and British East Indies have all sustained losses this year, the total decline will not exceed 12 or 15 per cent.

Australian foreign trade has likewise fallen off considerably, and the loss will cut in half the gain of 25 per cent. which the Commonwealth has made in the value of her exports since the war.

World prices are lower than at any time since the war, and have decreased since this time last year by about 15 per cent.

DEATH RATE UP.

BAD WEATHER REFLECTED IN VITAL STATISTICS.

According to the Registrar-General's return for the week ended December 20, the number of civilian deaths in the 107 county boroughs and great towns of England and Wales was 5,165, or 287 more than in the preceding week, with a death-rate of 13.7, against 12.9. In London the civilian deaths totalled 1,175, an increase of 93.

The number of live births, 6,207, corresponded to an annual rate of 16.4 per 1,000 living. Infant mortality, based on the average weekly number of live births during the past fifty-two weeks, was 73, against 62, 58 and 68 in the preceding three weeks.

In London there were 1,341 live births registered, corresponding to an annual rate of 15.8 per 1,000 living. Infant mortality was 51, against 57, 42, and 64 in the three weeks preceding.

[It is worth noting that during the period covered by this report, the weather in most parts of the country was exceptionally bad, fog and damp being general. London had six successive days without sun.]

SHOP WINDOW SOFA.

PENNILESS MAN'S CHOICE OF A BED.

BERLIN, Saturday.

Two Berlin policemen, patrolling one of the main streets of the city at night, noticed that the plate-glass window of a shop was smashed to pieces.

Convinced that burglars were at work, they drew their revolvers, entered the shop through the hole in the window, and called out, "Hands up!" The only reply was a hearty snore, which they found came from a man lying fast asleep on a sofa.

Awakened, he told them that as he had no money and no place to sleep, he decided to use the comfortable-looking sofa which he had noticed in the shop window, and as the only way to get to it was to break the window, he broke it.

This prank, however, cost him two months' imprisonment.—Reuter.

GIRL'S HEROIC FIGHT.

KILLED BY DACOITS IN RAID ON A SHOP.

LAHORE, Saturday.

A Hindu girl, barely 15 years of age, who was married only recently, has been killed in the village of Sarad in the Punjab by Dacoits whom she stubbornly fought with bricks.

The Dacoits, who were nearly a dozen in number, were armed with swords and guns. They raided the shop of a moneylender. Neighbours collected and offered resistance.

In the fight two villagers were seriously wounded, and the girl herself was killed by a shot fired by the Dacoits.—Reuter.

STORY OF THE AGES.

RELICS IN A LONDON CELLAR.

NO MUSEUM TO HOUSE THEM.

50 YEARS WORK OF SIR FLINDERS PETRIE.

Half a century of excavations by Sir Flinders Petrie has resulted in the accumulation of a vast quantity of relics, for which in London there is no home.

At the age of 77, Sir Flinders is the greatest revealer of ancient civilisations to the modern world. He is spending a Christmas and New Year holiday in Palestine, carrying out further researches.

"As a result of fifty years' incessant labour," he relates, "I have accumulated relics by which it is possible to trace the history of civilisations from 5000 B.C. to A.D. 68, and yet in London, greatest of modern cities, there is no museum in which to display these relics.

"I have reason to hope that this incredible defect will soon be remedied. Until then this story of the ages remains stored in a cellar at the University College, London."

DIGGING AT TELL AJJUL.

At Gerar, where Abraham and Isaac lived more than 2,000 years before Christ, Sir Flinders Petrie hopes to find something that will throw further light on the lives of the patriarchs. In the January issue of "Cassell's Magazine" he remarks that while much of interest has been unearthed, nothing has been revealed which can definitely be associated with Abraham. "To-day," he adds, "the mound where ancient Gerar stood is known as Tell Jemmeh. Nearer the coast is another very important mound, Tell Ajjul, where the latest remains to be discovered were of the Hyksos—the Shepherd Kings who ruled in Egypt and Palestine before the Pharaohs and after the Neolithic period.

"Several of my party, which numbers fourteen in all and includes Lady Petrie, will dig at Tell Ajjul. By continuing down through the Bronze Age I hope it will be possible to complete the connection already established with the Neolithic Age. If this is accomplished it will be something to mark the jubilee of my Egyptian researches, which I began at the pyramids of Gizeh in November, 1880.

"At that time there was nothing known in Egypt itself older than the Great Pyramid. There was no link with the West before the Greek traditions, and we knew no objects of the most usual material civilisation. Our understanding of Palestine and Babylonia was in even worse plight.

GAP OF 1,000 YEARS.

"In the fifty years since then the mist of our ignorance has been rolled back, stage by stage. Contact of Egypt with the West has been traced through all the ages of prehistoric Greece. In Egypt itself the whole course of recorded history is before us and the beautiful things of the early monarchies are much better known than those of the Saxons in England. Four successive civilisations, whose records were unwritten, are now known in detail, and a fifth has come to view. The same widening of our vision has extended into Palestine, whose history we can now link with three prehistoric ages of Egypt.

"There is but one gap which remains to be filled. It is the period between the Neolithic Age and the arrival of the earliest Shepherd King in Palestine. I have both Neolithic and Hyksos relics, but there is, roughly, a thousand years to be accounted for. I hope to unearth the necessary clues this season in Palestine. If I succeed, we shall have a continuous history of the ages and civilisations in this part of the world from 4,000 years before Christ down to the present day."

TWO POLICEMEN IN THE DOCK.

CHRISTMAS DAY ARRESTS.

Taken into custody on Christmas Day, two Stoke Newington police constables, Samuel Futter (27), of Gordon Road, and Richard Thomas (25), of High Street, appeared before the North London magistrate (Mr. Bernard Watson) yesterday, on a charge of being concerned together in breaking and entering a house in Heathland Road, Stoke Newington, and stealing eight cases of cutlery, two pairs of opera glasses, two bottles of scent, three brushes, and other articles, together valued at £100, the property of Meyer Bacal.

Evidence of arrest was given by Detective-Inspector Farquhar, who said that he saw the prisoners at the police station and charged them. Futter said, "I was madly intoxicated at the time." Thomas said "I didn't know that this stuff had been taken by him" (referring to the other prisoner).

Both prisoners were remanded. Bail was granted, subject to satisfactory sureties. The police asked for a substantial surety in the case of Futter, who was stated to be an acting sergeant at the time, the other man being under his orders. Thomas was said to be a young policeman of good character living in the section house. His home is at Cardiff.

EX-CONSTABLE BOUND OVER.

Charged at Thames with being found on enclosed premises for an unlawful purpose, Fredk. Heryett, of Barnet Grove, Bethnal Green, an ex-police constable, was bound over under the Probation of Offenders Act. He had been caught endeavouring to open the locked mess-room door at Leman Street, E., police-station with a screwdriver. He said he was "down and out."

Detective-Sergeant Davidson said the man joined the police in December, 1919, and in October of this year was asked to resign for breaches of discipline. He was a widower with two children, and his wife committed suicide. He was practically unable to obtain employment.

Telling Heryett that, although he had brought the trouble on himself, he was very sorry for him, the magistrate (Mr. F. T. Barrington Ward, K.C.) referred him to the court missionary with a view to assistance being rendered to him.

THE CHILDREN'S TREAT.

FRAUDULENT COLLECTORS FINED.

Charges of having fraudulently converted to their own use money received by them on behalf of the Oldham Unemployed Organisation's Children's Christmas treat were preferred, at Oldham yesterday, against Samuel Farrow, of Stoneleigh Street; Willie McKinley, Moorhey Street, and Thomas Murtagh, Huddersfield Road, Oldham.

Farrow admitted having altered various sums received by him, and made them appear less than he had actually received. He had in this way converted to his own use £6 14s. 10d. The other two admitted having spent small sums of money in drink after receiving it on behalf of the object named.

Farrow was fined £10, Murtagh £5, and McKinley £2.

A NEW MAID OR MANSERVANT?—The help you require may be found in the Situations Bureau columns of the SUNDAY TIMES, or obtainable by advertising for it. The rate is 1s. a line. See page 18.

Rugby Football.

THE ARMY PLAY BRIGHTLY BUT LOSE TO HARLEQUINS.

TAYLORS OUTPOINTED—RICHMOND'S REVIVAL.

LEICESTER, COVENTRY AND NEWPORT WIN EASILY.

London sides yesterday had rather a profitless day in their many duels with provincial clubs. Rosslyn Park fought spiritedly at Bedford, but lost a high-scoring game, while the Taylors were outclassed at Bristol, though nothing like so decisively as were the Old Paulines at Newport.

The London Welsh would probably have won at Swansea had not injuries left them with two men short in the second stage; as it was, they shared 22 pts. Pontypool, on the other hand, riddled the London Irish defence, and the Fettesians-Lorettonians won against the Old Cranleighans.

In the return bout between Blackheath and Richmond, the latter confirmed their revival, and the form of the first meeting a week ago by winning again. The Army fielded a good side against the Harlequins, but were not quite equal to the task.

Coventry got the measure of Penarth right from the start, but Cardiff, though winning by a larger margin, took longer to subdue the Watsonians. A surprise was the success of Cheltenham at Gloucester, and not quite expected was the narrow victory Rugby brought off at Northampton.

Leicester showed something like their happiest form in inflicting a smart defeat on Birkenhead Park, and Bath again touched their best to overthrow Neath.

ARMY'S GALLANT FINISH.

BUT 'QUINS MAINTAIN WINNING LEAD.

By D. R. GENT.

Harlequins 21 pts., The Army 15.

PORTSMOUTH, Saturday.

This was a delightful match; in fact, I do not think I have seen a better one this season. It was the first serious Army trial, and in running a strong Harlequins side to 21 points to 15, the young Army players may be said to have done splendidly. The Services' ground was in a wretched condition, and that made the high standard of the football more amazing. Still, up and down the field the game went all the afternoon, and both sides opened it out at every opportunity.

The Harlequins won because of their better combination (which one would expect) and because of their superior skill, but it was most enjoyable to see pitted against this untiring energy and abundant pluck.

It is hardly fair to pick out any individuals after such capital team work, but the play of H. C. Laird in the centre and of J. R. Cole at outside half for the winners was outstanding. Laird is such a magnificent footballer that one wonders whether he would not yet make a high-class centre. Then there was Cole playing his usual neat and effective game in the key position; in fact, it was possibly the failure of his opponents to check Cole that led to their defeat.

What I liked most about the Army was the way they stuck to their doughty opponents. But A. G. Martin, G. C. Beatty-Pownall, L. J. Harris, and E. W. Hunt, of the backs, and E. H. Sadler (easily the best forward) and H. Reed among the forwards did more than that—they played good-class football.

Though it was fine, and even sunny overhead, the ground was very bad when the game started a quarter of an hour late owing to the Harlequins having had a breakdown on the road.

A strong Army rush was well pulled up by Laird, who, in addition, sent his opponents back with a long kick to touch. Keeping the Army penned in their own "25," the Harlequins tried to open out the game, but the conditions beat them, and at last, the ball getting loose, Wilson made a capital run and kick to touch that took the game for the first time to the visitors' "25."

After ten minutes' play there was a scrum about twenty yards from the Army line. Dean fed Cole smartly, and the latter slipped through the defence to score a good try, which Hubbard converted. A splendid rush for the Army, headed by Sadler, gained quite forty yards, and ended in Adams being tackled in possession.

Once more the Harlequins broke away prettily, and Wood, on the wing, made a good dash for the line, only to be tackled very well by Hunt. A neat piece of combination between Fenton and Harris, helped by a capital rush headed by Reid, took play right to the visitors' line. But bad marking in the line-out gave the Harlequins forwards a chance, and the Army were at once taken to the other end of the field, where Dean all but scored for the Harlequins. A nasty kick over the eye forced Cole to leave the field, Laird coming to outside-half and Price going into the centre.

The next incident was a very good run indeed by Harris, which might have led to a try had the centre passed to his wing. Instead, he passed inside, and the pass was knocked on. But it gave the Army a good attacking position, and play hung near the line for some minutes. Here the visitors were penalised, but Hunt's kick went wide and Hubbard put the ball into touch at the half-way line.

Another forward rush, with Sadler again at its head, forced Hubbard to touch down. Just on half-time Cole came back and helped his side to score their second try, Price, Laird and Wood combining beautifully before Price scored, for Hubbard to kick his second goal, after which the whistle went for half-time.

The second half yas hardly five minutes old when Cole again slipped through prettily, and, when confronted by Hunt, found Brook up awaiting. Brook did the rest quite effectively, and for the third time Hubbard obliged. A neat bit of short-side combination between Simpson and Martin saw the latter make a splendid dash to get away, but he was forced into touch and, coming back almost at once, the Harlequins got going prettily, and a good opening by Laird enabled G. C. Adams to score in the corner, Hubbard just failing this time.

After Fenton had dropped a difficult pass from his partner, Hunt saved splendidly, picking up on the run in the worst of the mud and kicking beautifully to touch. With Beatty-Pownall and Fenton also kicking well, the Army had a spell of attacking that really should have given them a try, for they had worked hard. But their opponents were too watchful, and Price and Laird between them worked the game right to the half-way line. Here Cole got away again and all but sent Brook in, the forward being magnificently tackled by Hunt.

Then did come an Army try—and a beauty it was. Martin did it all by himself. He got the ball well inside his own half, side-stepped a couple of opponents, dashed past a few more, and then went all out for the line, to finish between the posts, Hunt converting.

Another Harlequins try followed, started by an error of judgment by Hunt, who ran too far, had the ball knocked out of his hand, and then saw Laird get quite clear with three-quarters of the field to go. He ran half the way and let Hodge finish it off. Hubbard again failed, though it was a good shot. For the rest of the match, it was all Army. They rallied magnificently and scored two capital tries, one after passing by Harris and another after a great individual effort by Beatty-Pownall. Hunt converted them both, his second shot being a beauty, and at that the scoring stopped, though the Army got near once or twice more.

THE ARMY.—2nd Lt. E. W. F. de Y. Hunt (R.A.); Lt. A. G. Martin (S.W. Borderers), Lt. C. C. Beaty Pownall (2nd Bn. Leicestershire Regt.), 2nd Lt. L. J. Harris (R.E.), 2nd Lt. I. D. M. Wilson (2nd Bn. Devonshire Regt.); 2nd Lt. G. J. Fenton (R.A.), and 2nd Lt. E. W. Simpson (R.E.); Lt. H. Rew (5th Bn. Royal Tank Corps), 2nd Lt. B. W. Reynolds (1st Duke of Wellington's Regt.), 2nd Lt. O. L. Troop (1st Bn. Duke of Wellington's Regt.), 2nd Lt. R. G. S. Hobbs (R.A.), 2nd Lt. G. Taylor (1st Bn. West Yorkshire Regt.), 2nd Lt. R. K. Page (R.A.), Lce.-Cpl. E. H. Sadler (Royal Corps of Signals), 2nd Lt. D. G. Moore (Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers).

HARLEQUINS.—J. C. Hubbard; W. H. Wood, G. C. Adams, P. E. Hodge, H. C. Laird; J. R. Cole and G. J. Dean, P. W. Adams, G. B. Coghlan, H. E. C. Prescott, N. L. Jackson, T. E. Dunkley, H. L. Price, P. W. Brook, and E. P. Sewell.

WOODFORD'S NARROW WIN.

Woodford 8 pts., Catford Bridge 6.

Owing to Catford Bridge's late arrival the game with Woodford at Woodford Green ended in a very bad light. R. R. Cripps opened the scoring for Woodford, but Kendrew was unable to convert. Boty led the movement which ended in the first try for Catford Bridge. In the second half C. D. Walker Arnott scored a good try for Kendrew to add the extra points. Just before time Payne fumbled badly to allow Catford's right wing to cross. Goldflake and Boty were excellent for Catford Bridge, while the brothers Cripps were prominent among the Woodford forwards.

RICHMOND'S DOUBLE.

ANOTHER VICTORY OVER BLACKHEATH.

Blackheath 3 pts., Richmond 11.

Given favourable weather, the meeting of Blackheath and Richmond at the Rectory Field would have attracted thousands of spectators. As it was, only a few hundred people attended. Rain was falling steadily at the start, and after a few minutes' play the ground was waterlogged in parts. Five minutes from the start McLean picked up a loose ball and went over for a try for Richmond. Six minutes later a fine movement resulted in Millard sending in Alexander for a try to equalise the scores. At half-time the score was three-all.

Richmond were definitely beaten forward, but held a distinct advantage behind the scrum. The three-quarters showed far more cohesion than the home line and greater thrust. Ryan regained the lead for them with a clever goal dropped for a penalty, and Ryan ran well to send in Legg for a try, which Ryan converted. Ten minutes from the end Bailey, the Blackheath forward, was carried off following a collision.

Both sides earned considerable credit for the relatively high standard of Rugby which they managed to maintain.

With the conditions as they were it was to be expected that the backs would find it difficult to keep their footing or to handle the ball with certainty, and that the maximum of benefit would accrue to the side which was prompter to profit by the other's misfortunes. So it turned out. Richmond, man for man, were quicker at getting their toes to a dropped or misdirected ball, and were less disconcerted by an unexpected rebound than the "Club" men.

Tanner's presence in the centre made their three-quarter line a thrustful attacking force, and, since the heavy going suited Chapman, on the wing, the Richmond outside movements, even if their passing was not so sure as Blackheath's, usually gained more ground. One of the features of the game was the way in which Wright marked Minns.

Maclean's try was cleverly got, but for the remainder of the game he was not quite so good at Stand-off. The Richmond pack were rather more wideawake than their opponents, Hobbs, Parsons, and Hopwood being particularly prominent, but the best forward of the afternoon was a Blackheath man, Laing, who got about the ground at an astonishing pace, and anticipated correctly developments which were beyond the grasp of some of his team-mates.

Blackheath made some splendid combined rushes in the second half. Among the backs Alexander was easily the best. Again and again he cut short a Richmond attack by getting man and ball with a flying tackle, and when attacking himself he ran straight, an observation which cannot be applied to Bishop. Thompson played by no means badly at full back, but was outshone by Ryan, of Richmond, who kept his position well, fielded cleanly, and had a nice control of length in finding the touch line.

It is a long time since Richmond have gratified their ambition of beating the "Club" twice in a season.

NEATH DISAPPOINT.

Bath 8 pts., Neath 0.

Brilliant weather prevailed at Bath, and the meeting of the club with Neath attracted 4,000 spectators. Neither side were at full strength, but Neath had the better of the opening play. The Welsh pack was much superior to that of Bath. Dan Jones was prominent on the wing for the visitors, but a glorious run saw Gerrard secure a try for Bath, Weeks missing the conversion. Neath were unlucky to be three points behind at half-time.

Hancock got a smart try for Bath (goaled by Slade) early after the resumption; faced by Lloyd and another Neath back, he changed his run cleverly to the centre. The visitors contented themselves with keeping the game tight, and their display was disappointing. Gough again played well for Bath, who deserved to win for their great rally in the second half.

LIVERPOOL DESERVEDLY BEATEN.

Liverpool 0 pts., North of Ireland 10.

The meeting of Liverpool and North of Ireland at Liverpool was favoured with fine weather, and the game attracted 1,000 spectators. The visitors soon took the lead, L. Malcolmson dropping a goal for them, and M. Atkinson, the Irish International three-quarter, also kicking a penalty goal. The Belfast men found a strong wind of great advantage, and did most of the attacking by forward rushes, but failed to add to their lead before half-time.

The Liverpool three-quarters made a weak link in the second half by resorting to far too much kicking instead of continuing passing movements. Webb got an unconverted try for the Irish team, whose passing and command of the ball in the loose scrummages gave them a deserved victory.

LONDON IRISH OUTPLAYED.

Pontypool 23 pts., London Irish 0.

The visit of London Irish to Pontypool attracted 4,000 people the game being played in fine weather. Pontypool played Ken Watkins, formerly of Newport. Despite a very muddy ground, the play was interesting. Woolley scored after a brilliant pick-up by Bayliss, and then Watkins added two tries, one after a cross-kick by Woolley, the other after passing. Bayliss converted one try to give the home club a lead at half-time by 1 goal and 2 tries to nil.

Pontypool were definitely on top in the second half, and their backs were given plenty of chances by the forwards. Woolley scored three further tries, all of which followed passing, and Morris touched down after a lucky kick had beaten Ivers, the Irish full-back.

GLOUCESTER DISAPPOINT.

Gloucester 3 pts., Cheltenham 8.

Five thousand spectators assembled at Gloucester to witness the match between the home club and Cheltenham. Both clubs were below full strength. Gloucester attacked continuously from the start, but the backs failed again and again to accept their chances. Cheltenham broke away just before the interval, and Thomas scored a try which Walters failed to convert. This was the extent of the scoring in the first half.

Gloucester had most of the play again in the second half, but they showed no improvement. From an interception Taylor scored for the visitors, after a fine run, and Davies converted. Abbey then scored for the City, but, despite repeated attacks, they failed to save the game. The home backs were very disappointing throughout.

ABERAVON WIN BY A POINT.

Aberavon 9 pts., Bridgend 8.

Bridgend put up quite a creditable show at Aberavon before a large crowd. They took the lead through Powell, who scored a clever try for Chilcott to convert. Aberavon played strenuously, and Tal Harris dropped a goal, and a few minutes afterwards Aberavon took the lead when Ridgeway scored a try for Owen to convert.

Although Aberavon played good constructive football, they failed to score in the second half, and when Chilcott kicked a penalty goal for Bridgend the closing stages became exciting. It was a splendid game, and Aberavon deserved their victory.

BRISTOL BEAT O.M.T.

DASHING PLAY BY THE OUTSIDES.

BURLAND'S FINE FORM.

Bristol 21 pts., O.M.T. 6.

Bristol were most obviously superior to the Old Merchant Taylors in their match at Bristol, played in fine weather, before a good crowd.

Bristol opened the score with an unconverted try by Burland. The visitors at once responded with a try by Hack, but Bristol regained the lead with a fine try by Sherman, Burland converting. Burland and Sherman added further tries, Watts converting one and Burland the other.

Bristol had the better of matters in the early stages of the second half, but the visitors improved, and Fletcher scored an unconverted try. Bristol replied with a great try by Burland. Play was fast and open, both sides overcoming the handicap of the greasy ball. The visitors' forwards played excellent football, but Bristol were better behind the scrum.

Both teams overcame the handicap of the heavy ground and greasy ball in a highly commendable manner, and the game was far removed from a forward struggle. Both sides opened out smartly from set scrums and loose, the Taylors being particularly good in the latter, many attacks being started by smart picking up. In the early stages the visitors looked like giving Bristol a very hard game, if not actually winning, so dashing were their forwards, and fast and skilful their backs. The home side, however, gradually got the upper hand, and established a clear superiority behind the scrummage, where Carter and Barrington had an excellent understanding, and, good as Dothie and Heck were, beat them in a great majority of cases. In consequence the "threes" had plenty of chances, of which they made excellent use, Burland in particular showing brilliant form, on one occasion running three-parts the length of the field to score. The Taylors' only try in this half came as the result of good handling and strong running, the movement being well conceived and splendidly executed. Bristol, however, well deserved their fifteen points lead at the interval.

In the second half the game was of a much more even character; in fact the visitors may be said to have had rather the better of matters, though they could score only once, as also did Bristol. Both lines had narrow escapes. The forwards were well matched, though those of the visitors lasted rather better than the home eight, who felt the strain of playing a man short, owing to the injury to Parsons.

For the Taylors, Edmonds, Tebbutt, Devonshire, of forwards; Bywater and Turnball, of backs, were the pick. Sam Tucker led his pack well, and was well supported, particularly by Smith, Hazell and Lambert. Carter and Barrington were excellent at half, and Burland played a magnificent game at centre, while Pickles, Sherman and Watts were also good.

FINE WIN FOR BEDFORD.

ASHWELL'S FOUR TRIES AGAINST ROSSLYN PARK.

Bedford 25 pts., Rosslyn Park 16.

Bedford overran Rosslyn Park at Bedford under conditions which were all against good handling. There were four thousand spectators.

Rosslyn Park used their feet better at the outset, but Bedford handled well, and Bramwell, playing strongly in the centre, made wonderful openings, from which tries were scored by Ashwell (two), Cook, and Reed. T. Williams scored another, while C. H. Williams converted two.

Bedford began to feel the effects of their Boxing Day exertions, and in the first fifteen minutes of the second half the Park scored thirteen points from tries by Woodhouse, Forbes-Bassett, and Collins, Baker converting two. Bedford, however, recovered, and Ashwell added a try. After some fast exchanges, Hunter scored for the visitors following a dribble along the whole length of the field, but in the last few minutes of the game Ashwell added his fourth try for Bedford, and they won a heavy scoring game by two goals and five tries to two goals and two tries.

Bedford's victory was the first over Rosslyn Park since 1924. Bedford began as though feeling the results of the heavy game on the preceding day with Old Paulines. Sime could not get the ball up when passing from the scrum, and his ground passes enabled the Park skirmishers to boot the ball towards the Bedford line, which had several narrow escapes. Then, after ten minutes, Bedford got together, and playing dazzling Rugger, ran the Park off their legs. Brumwell especially, and Reed ran brilliantly. Their openings produced sixteen points in ten minutes.

Brumwell sold Baker two perfect dummies. The whole team's handling was brilliant. The forwards heeling quickly. Sime giving lovely service from scrum, and Reed opening out cleverly, but Brumwell was the star performer, his thrust and pace and infinite variety of approach making him very difficult to stop. He was better marked by Baker in the second half, and Bedford never recaptured the abandon of that ten minutes, though many movements of backs in the second half were of high merit.

Park had their best time early in the second half, when Bedford seemed very tired, and could not hold the visiting bustling forwards. Park had whittled down Bedford's big interval lead to six points, and had good prospects of snatching a victory, when the Bedford pack began getting the ball again. Then there was little doubt of Bedford's ability to defend.

The Park's forwards were fine in the loose, but their backs lacked cohesion and thrust, and could not compare with Bedford's.

Baker, Collins, and Foster were the best of the Park backs, Baker and Collins repeatedly breaking through, but finding inadequate support. Alston, last year's Bedford winger, got few chances, while few of the Rosslyn's bouts ever lived long enough to reach their wingers. Eidsforth was in good form for Bedford at full back.

OLD EMANUEL'S CLEVER "THREES."

Old Emanuel 11 pts., Old Redingensians 0.

Old Emanuel beat the Old Redingensians at New Malden by 11 points to nil. The conditions did not permit much open play, and the game was mostly confined to the forwards. At half-time there was no score. After the interval Old Emanuel backs made good use of their opportunities, and E. C. Stubbs opened the scoring with a good cut through, the kick just failing. The Old Redingensians pressed for some time, but the position was relieved by the Old Emanuel's three-quarters. Their quick passing enabled J. E. Farmer to make a nicely judged cross-kick to the centre of the field, where H. J. Hutchins gathered and forced his way over between the posts for W. B. Bevis to convert. The Old Redingensians were rather unlucky not to score. H. F. W. Wickert made a fine run from his own 25, which resulted in a well-earned try.

SARACENS' SMART FORWARDS.

Upper Clapton 0 pts., Saracens 3.

Saracens visited Bush Hill to play Upper Clapton and thoroughly deserved their victory by a try to nil. The Saracens, although playing one short for the first fifteen minutes, were strengthened by the inclusion of P. H. Davis, the international wing forward from Sale, who played a great game. Upper Clapton played one short in the second half, West, their hooker, being badly injured. On the heavy ground the game was necessarily a forward one, but the Saracens' halves, Burkle and Bray, handled well and tried hard to open up play.

The first half was fairly evenly contested, neither side being able to score, but after the interval the Saracens' eight had the larger share of the ball. After a nice passing movement Thomas ran over far out. From this point the Saracens pressed and would have scored but for the splendid efforts of Roberts, Upper Clapton's full-back, who played brilliantly.

COVENTRY'S DAZZLING START.

Coventry 19 pts., Penarth 5.

Coventry played superior Rugby against Penarth at Coventry, and soon had a commanding position.

The home fifteen handled brilliantly in the early stages, and in the first fifteen minutes tries were obtained for them by Rowley, Clarke, and Harriman. Two were converted by Blake. Penarth improved, but Lee spoilt a chance. Evans only just missed kicking a penalty when Coventry were stopped for a scrum infringement, but Coventry attacked again, and Blake kicked a penalty goal.

Penarth attacked strongly on resuming, Lee and Evans making good attempts before being tackled. Bassett, the visiting full-back, made several clever clearances when Coventry attacked. Then Penarth missed a promising opening when Isaac passed forward, but finally Glyn Jones cut through for a try, which Evans converted. Coventry replied to this with an unconverted try by Campbell.

UNLUCKY LONDON WELSH.

WINNING LEAD LOST THROUGH INJURIES.

SWANSEA'S BUSTLING PLAY.

Swansea 11 pts., London Welsh 11.

The London Welsh gave a smart display at Swansea and entertained 8,000 spectators to some clever moves. There was a desperate forward struggle, and the Welsh used a strong wind to deadly effect. W. C. Powell kicked a penalty and also dropped a goal, while Watcyn Thomas replied with a try for Swansea. Jones-Davies dropped a goal for the Welsh. The crowd barracked the referee for an alleged unfair decision. Play was fast and very vigorous.

Jones-Davies had to go off in the second half, but the London Welsh displayed tenacity despite this. The Swansea backs, however, threw away chances through over-eagerness. All the while there was stern scrummaging on the visitors' line in this period, but their defence was sound. Eventually E. Long scored for Swansea. M. H. Evans was also injured, so that the visitors were only thirteen strong. Naturally Swansea pressed, and Redvers Davies scored, Parker converting. This enabled Swansea to draw in dramatic fashion, although they all but lost.

WATSONIANS ROUTED.

FREE SCORING BY CARDIFF BACKS.

Cardiff 21 pts., Watsonians 0.

The Watsonians' tour took them to Cardiff, where they drew a crowd of 4,000. The early exchanges were fast, the Watsonians holding a slight advantage. After twenty minutes Boon scored a try for Cardiff, after a race for possession with Deans. The Watsonians lost the services of Blair, who was badly injured in a scrummage. With both sets of backs passing badly, the remainder of play in this half was strictly between the forwards, with neither side claiming superiority.

On the resumption Keiller just failed to touch down after a fine dribble. The Cardiff backs showed a big improvement in this half, and G. Jones and Graham-Jones scored tries in quick succession. Cardiff continued to be persistent and a forward rush enabled Clark to increase their lead. A few minutes later Osborne made an opening for Boon to score his second try. Boon continued to display clever tactics on the wing, and before the end he added two further tries. The place-kicks all failed, but Cardiff won by the substantial total of 21 points to nil.

LEICESTER'S DECISIVE WIN.

Leicester 25 pts., Birkenhead Park 9.

Scoring was fairly free in the match with Leicester and Birkenhead Park at Leicester, and 5,000 saw an interesting game in the mud.

Leicester opened the scoring, Smith going over from a scrum under the posts. Prentice converted. Llewellyn then dropped a perfect goal from the touch line. With Birkenhead Park obtaining possession for the first time, Wilson cut through splendidly and scored under the posts, and was also successful with the kick. Just afterwards Wilson put Birkenhead Park on terms with a splendid left-foot dropped goal, but Farndon scored an unconverted try for Leicester.

The early stages of the second half were confined to close forward rushes by both sets of forwards. Birkenhead were penalised for a scrum infringement, and Prentice kicked a penalty goal. Prentice and Reeve made a run the full length of the field, but Cockle saved well. Wilson made one or two attempts to break through, but the defence was very sound. Weiner scored for Leicester, Prentice converting. Hopkins added a further try, Llewellyn converting.

A POINTLESS DRAW.

Old Dunstonians 0 pts., Catford Bridge 0.

Old Dunstonians drew a pointless game with Catford Bridge at Belfingham. The ground was in a bad state, and it rained throughout the game, making handling almost impossible. The Old Boys had slightly the better of the game. For the latter, Sheridan missed a dropped goal at the last minute by only a few feet.

E. W. Wood was always dangerous for Catford, while their forwards held the advantage in the tight scrums and line-outs. Stoer, Morris, D. S. Murrell, E. G. W. Wood, and Richards were particularly good for Dunstonians.

OLD PAULINES CRUSHED.

Newport 40 pts., Old Paulines 3.

The Old Paulines cut a poor figure at Newport, and even at the interval they were twenty-eight points to the bad. Berry, Morley, Mountain, and Green scored tries for Newport by smart play, Everson converting the last three. The visitors paid few visits to Newport line, but lacked finish. Everson, following up a smart kick, scored a try and converted, while Carter scored again, and Everson once more converted.

After the interval the Newport forwards tired and the Old Paulines had much of the play. Morley scored after a great run, and Eversom converted. Carter then dropped a clever goal, and Bury added an unconverted try. In the last minute Low crossed for an unconverted try for the Old Paulines.

GALA FAIL.

Glasgow Acads. 8 pts., Gala 0.

This game, in which Glasgow Academicals beat Gala by 8 points to nil, was played in a heavy gale at Glasgow. Gala played against the wind, but held their own. The Academicals were busy in defence in the first half, and could not make use of their advantages and missed the safe fielding of Warren and Waddell. After twenty minutes Forrest got an unconverted try for Academicals. Five minutes later Taylor raced over, Scott kicking a goal.

Gala were disappointing with the wind at their backs, giving the forwards no assistance. The Academicals made light of the conditions, their forwards giving a great exhibition. Twice Gala had a great chance to score, but marvellous saves by Forrest and Simmers kept the line intact. The conditions, however, prevented the Academicals clinching chances, although their ball control was excellent.

GLASGOW HIGH SCHOOL WIN.

Glasgow H. School 19 pts., Edinburgh Acads. 3.

Glasgow High School entertained Edinburgh Academicals and proved superior to their visitors, scoring nineteen points against three. At the start of the game both backs were quickly called into action, Patrick and Tod tackling raids by Pecker and Douglas. Later Macpherson twice made brilliant openings, but the final passes were dropped. The School forwards improved, and a fine dribble took them to their opponents' line, where McLaren dashed over for an unconverted try. Their forwards held the subsequent play until the close of the first half.

On the resumption the School pressed, and Hegie was almost over, but Tod brought relief. The visitors were useless against the Glasgow's close tackling. McLaren and Spowart got moving, and Spowart taking the inside-rounded Tod, Hill converted. Shaw, near the end, fielded a cross kick and scored a try. Then Hill kicked a penalty goal.

SOUTHEND LOSE AT HOME.

Southend 0 pts., Old Haberdashers 6.

The Old Haberdashers broke Southend's home record when they visited Priory Park and won by two tries to nil. The ground was very wet and consequently there was little handling, play being mostly with the forwards. The game in the first half was even. The Old Boys, however, held a slight advantage as their forwards broke up quickly and overran the home halves. Shortly after half-time Jamieson went over the near corner for the Old Boys following a mistake by the Southend full back. On time Moddy scored the second try after a good forward rush. Both kicks failed. The game was keenly contested throughout, there being little to choose between the teams.

LONDON OLYMPIADES' WALKING HANDICAP.

Despite depressing weather conditions, ten of the eleven entrants competed in the London Olympiades' annual walking handicap at Battersea Park. The course consisted of one lap of the track, one circuit of the park, and a finishing lap on the track. Miss W. Horton, 1 min. 20 sec. start, was first home. Fastest actual time was made by Mrs. H. Pugh, who was at scratch.

BURNS MAKES NEW RECORD.

Alec Burns (Elswick Harriers), the Northern cross-country champion, in winning the Gateshead Open Road Race, in 35 min. 23 sec., set up a new record for the course. Salford Harriers retained the cup with 60 points.

OLD CRANLEIGHANS BEATEN.

FAST PLAY BY FETTESIAN-LORETTONIANS.

FINE SCRUMMAGING.

Old Cranleighans 5 pts., Fettesian-Lorettonians 6.

A fine game, brimful of incident and interest at Thames Ditton, left the Fettesian-Lorettonians team winners over the Old Cranleighans, by two tries against a placed goal.

Both clubs were well represented, the Scottish side including three old Internationals in H. Waddle, D. J. MacMyn, and F. H. Waters, in addition to the old Cambridge Blue, D. M. Marr, while if the Old Boys missed H. P. Jacob they had an International half in A. Key, who played a very fine game for them, more particularly in the second half.

All the scoring came in the first period, when the Scottish side, because of their hard forward play, rather held the upper hand, but afterwards the Old Boys had much more of the ball and played with fine vigour and great determination.

Fortunately, the rain ceased before the match started, and the ground was surprisingly good, all things considered, but the ball was very heavy and greasy, and many of the mistakes that were made with the handling was to be attributed to this fact. Yet much of the passing was very well done, but the outstanding features of the game were the very fine scrummaging and the heroic defence on both sides. There were many typical Scottish rushes, generally headed by MacMyn or Waters, while the Old Boys' forwards, quick and resourceful, were often effective with the dribbles which took them a long way at times. Their halves were smart, G. R. K. Lee hitting it off well with Key. Their three-quarters played well together, if McCanlis did not dazzle, and on the whole he was rather disappointing in view of his reputation.

The Scottish backs were fast, but A. W. T. Murray was rather hesitating at the critical moment. Both the centres, A. M. Maclean and G. W. Nicholson got through a great deal of excellent work, while A. S. Dykes, a brother of the Scottish International, gave a great display at full-back, his long raking kicks for touch often extricating his side when they were sorely pressed.

Owing to the late arrival of Key, the Old Boys were a man short for ten minutes, and during that time the Scottish scored, a rush and some passing near the line ending in a try by Nicholson wide out. Play was very fast afterwards, with the Old Boys generally on the defensive, but after A. C. Hogarth had broken through and J. M. Dykes had gone over for another unconverted try for the visitors, C. E. J. Lambert crossed for the Old Boys after a long and clever run, and G. R. K. Lee kicked the goal.

It was a ding-dong fight throughout the second half, but neither side succeeded in scoring again, though there were many exciting struggles near each goal line.

OLD BOYS DRAW.

TWO FINE PACKS.

Old Millhillians 0 pts., Old Blues 0.

On a ground that prevented any open play, Old Millhillians drew with Old Blues at Headstone Lane yesterday.

The state of the ground gave both packs the opportunity to show their mettle for close scrum work. The outsides, in fact, had little to do except stand about, and occasionally join in forward rushes.

From the start the Old Blues forwards played the more vigorous game, wheeling and taking the ball at their feet. They kept the ball in the Old Millhillians' "25" for most of the first half, but with Spong at fly-half defending magnificently, the Old Blues found it impossible to cross the home side's line. It was Spong, too, who kept relieving the position by cutting through on every possible occasion and finding touch. The heaviness of the ball, however, prevented any long touch finding.

In the second half Old Millhillians reversed the procedure, and in their turn began to press. To everyone's amazement they tried to open out the game and continued these tactics, in spite of the three-quarters being unable to hold the slippery ball three times out of four. When they did get near the Old Blues' line, they found W. W. Nielson, at full-back, impossible to pass. Nielson and Sobey, on the other side, were, in fact, the two outstanding players on the field.

It was not a brilliant game, but it showed to great advantage two fine packs.

THE WASPS DEFIED.

Wasps 0 pts., Sidcup 0.

The Wasps visited Sidcup, and, after a keenly fought game, no score was recorded. Sidcup kicked off with the slope, but against the wind, and were at once on the defensive. But although the visiting team were constantly on the attack, they could not get past a good defence. The conditions were all against open play, and consequently the forwards had most of the game.

While the Wasps had much the best of the game territorially, full credit must be given to the Sidcup outsides, whose kicking was high class, and gave their side the necessary relief. The home team concentrated on defence, and must be given full honours for keeping their

RUGBY WIN HARD GAME.

Northampton 6 pts., Rugby 8.

Rugby were slow to settle down at Northampton on the heavy ground, and in five minutes Bailey scored an unconverted try for Northampton. Rugby improved, and clever back play sent in Entwistle and Smith for tries, the first of which Marr converted.

In the second half the play was much closer and the football continued keen and determined to the end. Both sides attacked often, but the only score came ten minutes from the end, when Millward dived over from a scrum on the Rugby line. Green just failed to convert, leaving Rugby winners by one goal and one try to two tries.

ALBION IRRESISTIBLE.

Plymouth Albion 17 pts., Newton Abbott 6.

At Plymouth, in bright weather, 4,000 spectators witnessed the game between Plymouth Albion and Newton Abbot. Both teams were below strength, and the Albion were the better side. Monson opened the scoring for them by getting an unconverted try, and soon Darlington added a penalty goal. Newton were outclassed, and Albion added tries through Boddy, A. Brigstock, and J. Brigstock, Darlington once converting. Newton improved slightly towards the interval, but failed to score.

Newton showed some improvement after the change over, but Plymouth never lost their grip of the game, and had they thrust home their attacks, must have scored heavily. After Greenwood had scored an unconverted try for Newton, they rallied strongly, and Elliott added another unconverted try.

RUGBY CLUB RECORDS.

	P.	W.	D.	L.	For	Agst.
Aberavon	19	10	4	5	125	95
Bk. of England	15	8	1	6	148	116
Barnet	13	8	1	4	170	94
Bath	10	3	1	6	226	118
Bedford	16	12	0	4	199	89
Birkenhead Park	11	6	1	4	148	133
Blackheath	19	6	1	12	168	216
Bradford	17	10	3	4	220	138
Bristol	16	12	1	3	214	76
Cambridge Univ.	13	8	2	3	418	142
Cardiff	36	19	6	11	339	235
Catford Bridge	20	11	1	8	153	135
Cheltenham	16	11	1	4	155	80
Coventry	19	14	1	4	272	135
Cross Keys	20	8	4	8	131	103
Esher	15	7	2	5	105	133
Gloucester	20	8	4	8	194	140
Harlequins	14	11	0	3	243	120
Headingley	17	10	1	6	319	140
Leicester	19	11	2	6	290	143
Llanelly	18	12	4	2	181	60
L.C.C.	9	6	2	1	86	31
London Irish	16	10	0	6	140	104
London Welsh	18	13	2	3	216	88
Manchester	16	4	0	12	99	215
Neath	19	11	0	8	293	218
Newport	22	13	3	6	258	144
Northampton	18	9	0	9	189	168
Old Alleynians	16	10	1	5	231	131
Old Blues	18	6	2	10	123	202
Old Cranleighans	15	8	0	7	188	138
Old Emanuel	14	6	2	6	132	132
Old Haberdashers	14	8	1	5	114	139
Old Hailleyburians	11	6	1	4	116	104
O. Merchant Taylors	16	7	1	8	156	181
Old Millhillians	14	7	1	6	134	95
Old Paulines	18	9	0	9	162	253
Oxford University	17	10	3	4	217	165
Plymouth Albion	15	11	1	3	167	89
Pontypool	21	13	4	4	211	76
Richmond	16	6	2	8	160	182
Rosslyn Park	16	9	1	6	166	85
Saracens	13	9	0	4	164	67
Southend	14	10	1	3	196	80
Streatham	16	2	0	14	78	243
Swansea	20	10	2	8	213	158
Upper Clapton	16	3	2	11	164	170
Wasps	17	16	1	0	285	84
Waterloo	14	7	0	7	160	148
Woodford	16	10	0	6	171	88

WELSH TRIAL TEAMS.

STRONG PROBABLES FIFTEEN.

WINDSOR LEWIS AND POWELL CHOSEN.

The following Welsh trial teams were selected at Cardiff last night for the final Welsh Rugby trial, to be played at Newport on Saturday:—

PROBABLES.

J. Scourfield (Torquay).

R. Boon (Cardiff), Claude Davey (Swansea), Guy Morgan (Swansea), J. C. Morley (Newport).

W. C. Powell (London Welsh) and Windsor Lewis (Guy's Hospital).

T. R. James (Treorchy), T. Day (Swansea), A. Skym (Cardiff), T. Arthur (Neath), J. Lang (Llanelly), H. Peacock (Newport), N. Mender (Cardiff), David Jones (Ebbw Vale).

POSSIBLES.

J. Bassett (Penarth).

G. Morgan (Bridgend), T. Jones Davis (London Welsh), W. Roberts (Cardiff), T. Lewis (London Welsh).

Frank Williams (Cardiff and Headingley) and C. Axford (Pontypool).

H. C. Day (Newport), E. Jenkins (Aberavon), D. Flynn (Penygraig), W. Targett (Talywain), E. Lloyd (Abertillery), Glyn Jones (Maesteg), Ifor Jones (Llanelly), E. Long (Swansea).

Reserves:—G. Baylis (Pontypool), Idris Towill (B

Association Football.

ARSENAL ENTRENCHED AS LEAGUE LEADERS.

NEWCASTLE'S SLIP—EVERTON SCORE NINE GOALS.

GALLACHER SENT OFF AT CHELSEA

The holiday football demonstrated at least one thing—the fine quality of the Arsenal's game. Six points and 14 goals to 3 was the net yield to the London club from their three matches, and they now have a clear four points lead over Sheffield Wednesday.

But the Wednesday showed something of their might yesterday in winning by the odd goal of three at Newcastle. The latter have been playing as well as any of late, "away" victories over the Arsenal and Huddersfield being the prelude to their entertainment of the champions. Yet Wednesday, following a loss at Middlesbrough on Boxing Day, got the honours at Newcastle.

One of the day's sensations was provided at Chelsea, where Gallacher, the Scottish international centre-forward, was sent off in the second half. He had been brought down by a Grimsby defender, perhaps roughly, but not illegally. The referee (Mr. G. Hewitt, of St. Helens) waved the play on and ignored Gallacher's appeal for a free-kick.

When still on the ground, Gallacher apparently made some offensive remark, for the referee at once pointed to the dressing-room. Gallacher got on his feet, and a fellow player (Wilson) put his arms around him whilst the Chelsea trainer clearly placed his sponge over the offending player's mouth. Gallacher then went off amid a mixed demonstration from the crowd. Chelsea won 5—0.

There was another Manchester United disaster—7—0—on the Villa ground—and an avalanche of goals for Everton. Rather surprisingly, in view of their recent good showing, Plymouth Argyle provided Everton with the opportunity to strengthen their leadership of the Second Division.

Tottenham followed up a victory at Southampton with a win at Reading, and, but for a home loss on Christmas Day (to Southampton), the North London club would be even more favourably placed in the promotion race.

Notts County still have a formidable lead in the Southern Section of the Third Division, but Lincoln, in the North, now have Tranmere Rovers hotly at their heels.

FIRST DIVISION.

The Arsenal had Jack at centre-forward, Brain at inside-right, Male at left-half, and John at left-back against Blackpool at Highbury. Brain celebrated his run with the first team by scoring three goals, and Jack proved his prowess as a centre-forward by scoring three times. In other words, the enforced team changes did not disturb the League leaders. Blackpool's half-backs were overwhelmed, and their forwards were seldom dangerous.

An injury to Thomson, their left-back, may have turned the scales against Newcastle United. He was injured early in the game, and though he pluckily returned to the field, he was just a cripple doing his best. Bedford scored for Newcastle after twenty minutes' play, and Seed put Sheffield Wednesday on level terms twenty minutes later, and scored their winning goal thirty minutes after the interval. Bedford failed with a penalty in the closing stages. Sheffield Wednesday did not play up to championship form, and were lucky to win.

Brown, who deputised for Waring in Aston Villa's attack, scored two of the home club's seven goals against Manchester United. The visitors were poor, and the concession of two penalties by handling in the second half—Houghton turned both of them into goals—was a fair specimen of their shiftless play.

A solo run by Ramage, which he capped with a goal, enabled Derby County to beat Leicester City at Derby.

If he had not stuck in the mud on two occasions Weddle would have scored three goals instead of one, and Portsmouth would have beaten Leeds United at Portsmouth. Leeds United were lucky to draw.

It was Huddersfield Town's second half play that beat West Ham. The visitors held their own in the first half, during which Turner, the Huddersfield goal-keeper, saved a penalty taken by Barrett.

Even when the referee sent Gallacher off at Chelsea with twenty minutes left for play, the home men remained well on top of Grimsby. Odell had opened the score when Swaby brought Ferguson down, and Gallacher got two further goals before half-time.

Chelsea played too much tip-tap football on the mud-heap, but Townrow and Ferguson served up some delightful half-back play. Jackson was easily the best forward on view, although he did not reach great heights. He scored Chelsea's fourth near the end after a glorious run down the centre, and another came from his foot following a free-kick.

Camsell scored two of Middlesbrough's three goals against Bolton Wanderers at Middlesbrough. He injured his eye when heading the first, but he pluckily stuck to his guns.

SECOND DIVISION.

Everton played splendid football in a quagmire at Goodison Park, and their reward was a big win over Plymouth Argyle. The visitors found the mud—and Everton's science—far too much for them. Both Dean and Stein proved themselves great marksmen, and both of them beat Cann—who gave a great display in the Plymouth goal—on four occasions.

West Bromwich Albion deserved the point they won at Bristol. The City played hard, but the Albion were the more polished side.

Bradford's forwards were clever in midfield, and dangerous in front of goal, and had it not been for Moss's fine goalkeeping, Oldham Athletic would have lost by a heavier margin than four clear goals.

Ferguson misjudged a ball headed by Jones, and Swansea Town lost by the only goal scored at Cardiff. The visitors were as good as their conquerors, who were weak in ball control.

The opportunism of Dent enabled Nottingham Forest to lead by two clear goals at the interval at Wolverhampton, but the Wolves were not to be denied in the second half, when their swift raids produced four goals and victory.

Bradford City had a stroke of bad luck in the first half at the Valley. While Robertson, the Charlton Athletic goalkeeper, was out of his goal, Hallows headed goalwards, but the ball stuck in the mud on the goal line and was scrambled away by the Charlton defenders. It was an unpleasant game. Tempers were frequently ruffled. Charlton won by the odd goal in three, but neither side played well enough to deserve the points.

If the home forwards had been better marksmen, Burnley would have lost by a much larger margin at Bury.

Reading had Oakley, their left-back, injured in the early stages of the game—which was undoubtedly a factor in Tottenham's success. The handicapped home club struggled gallantly, but the Spurs proved just a little too much for them.

Losing Hough injured in the first half, Southampton played the greater part of the game with ten men, but they beat Preston North End at the Dell.

Barnsley's forwards were in a dashing mood against Port Vale at Henley. They scored five times, and it was the resolute steadiness of the Port Vale defence which saved them from scoring more.

THIRD DIVISION.

Brighton had a reserve centre-forward, Carruthers, on duty on Boxing Day. He scored three goals. Yesterday he could not play through injury, and Nicol, who deputised, scored four (of five) goals against Gillingham.

McSevitch, Bournemouth's goalkeeper, became unconscious at half-time, following a first-half injury, but although a back played in goal, Bournemouth beat Swindon 4—1. Bristol Rovers were the better side at Northampton, but they only got a point, Hammond playing a wonderful game in the home goal.

Moore, the Southend goalkeeper, saved a penalty on the Crystal Palace ground, but snappy forwards gave the home men a 3—1 win.

In an exciting game at Brentford, Clarke scored the only goal for Luton, right on time.

Sudden darkness on the Thames ground led to a stoppage, all the players gathering together on the touchline for a few minutes. Afterwards McCarthy shot the one goal which defeated Queen's Park Rangers. W. Dowden, the Wimbledon amateur, played for Fulham, and scored a goal at Watford.

Lambourne, the Stockport left-half, was sent off at Hull for an alleged foul on a City player.

RESULTS AND LEAGUE POSITIONS.

THE LEAGUE.—DIVISION I.

Arsenal	7	Blackpool	1
Aston Villa	7	Manchester United	0
Blackburn Rov.	3	Liverpool	3
Chelsea	5	Grimsby Town	0
Derby County	1	Leicester City	0
Huddersfield T.	2	West Ham	0
Manchester C.	2	Sunderland	0
Middlesbrough	3	Bolton Wanderers	0
Newcastle United	1	Sheffield Wed.	2
Portsmouth	1	Leeds United	1
Sheffield United	3	Birmingham	1

	P.	W.	D.	L.	For	Agst.	Pts.
Arsenal	22	15	5	2	68	32	35
Sheffield Wed	22	13	5	4	60	34	31
Aston Villa	23	12	6	5	67	47	30
Derby County	23	12	5	6	53	36	29
Portsmouth	23	10	8	5	53	40	28
West Ham Utd.	23	11	5	7	51	46	27
Middlesbro	22	10	4	8	46	44	24
Huddersfield T.	22	8	7	7	52	42	23
Blackburn Rovers	23	9	5	9	52	47	23
Sheffield United	23	8	7	8	47	43	23
Chelsea	23	9	5	9	43	40	23
Leicester City	23	10	3	10	49	55	23
Liverpool	22	8	6	8	49	48	22
Manchester City	23	9	4	10	37	41	22
Leeds United	23	8	3	12	49	48	19
Newcastle Utd.	22	8	3	11	45	51	19
Birmingham	23	6	7	10	35	44	19
Sunderland	23	6	7	10	48	60	19
Bolton Wand.	22	7	4	11	31	43	18
Grimsby Town	22	7	3	12	34	39	17
Blackpool	23	6	5	12	39	56	17
Manchester Utd.	23	2	3	18	27	79	7

THE LEAGUE.—DIVISION II.

Barnsley	5	Port Vale	2
Bradford	4	Oldham Athletic	0
Bristol C.	1	W. Brom. Albion	1
Bury	2	Burnley	1
Cardiff C.	1	Swansea Town	0
Charlton Athletic	2	Bradford C.	1
Everton	9	Plymouth Argyle	1
Reading	1	Tottenham Hotspur	2
Southampton	2	Preston N.E.	1
Stoke City	2	Millwall	3
Wolverhampton W.	4	Notts Forest	2

	P.	W.	D.	L.	For	Agst.	Pts.
Everton	22	15	4	3	70	34	34
West Brom. Albion	23	13	5	5	50	25	31
Tottenham H'spur	23	14	2	7	58	29	30
Wolverh'n Wan.	23	13	0	8	57	35	30
Preston N.E.	23	12	4	7	56	34	28
Burnley	23	11	5	7	49	45	27
Bradford	23	11	4	8	61	39	26
Southampton	23	10	5	8	35	29	25
Bury	22	11	3	8	47	42	25
Port Vale	23	11	3	9	44	41	25
Stoke City	23	9	6	8	35	40	24
Swansea Town	23	8	5	10	36	42	21
Charlton Ath.	23	8	5	10	36	45	21
Oldham Ath.	23	9	3	11	33	44	21
Bristol C.	23	7	5	11	29	51	19
Bradford City	23	6	6	11	32	43	18
Barnsley	22	6	6	10	24	40	18
Millwall	23	7	3	13	43	58	17
Plymouth Argyle	22	7	3	12	34	49	17
Notts Forest	23	4	8	11	44	57	16
Cardiff City	23	6	4	13	35	53	16
Reading	23	5	3	15	31	63	13

THE LEAGUE.—DIVISION III. (Southern).

Bournemouth	4	Swindon Town	1
Brentford	0	Luton	1
Brighton and H.A.	5	Gillingham	0
Clapton Orient	2	Walsall	5
Crystal Palace	3	Southend Un.	1
Northampton T.	1	Bristol Rov	1
Norwich C.	1	Exeter City	2
Notts County	4	Coventry City	1
Thames	1	Queen's Park R.	0
Torquay Un.	3	Newport Co.	0
Watford	2	Fulham	2

	P.	W.	D.	L.	For	Agst.	Pts.
Notts County	23	15	6	2	60	27	36
Northampton	22	12	6	4	39	18	30
Crystal Palace	22	12	5	5	66	44	29
Brighton and H.A.	22	10	8	4	37	25	28
Southend United	23	13	2	8	47	37	28
Fulham	22	10	5	7	43	42	25
Brentford	23	10	4	9	52	43	24
Bournemouth & B.	23	9	6	8	42	43	24
Swindon Town	23	11	2	10	47	49	24
Torquay United	23	10	3	10	49	54	23
Exeter City	22	8	5	9	39	48	21
Queen's Park R.	22	9	2	11	50	40	20
Coventry City	21	8	4	9	46	40	20
Clapton Orient	21	8	4	9	37	38	20
Gillingham	22	6	8	8	37	38	20
Luton Town	22	7	6	9	29	35	20
Bristol Rovers	23	7	6	10	39	55	20
Watford	22	7	5	10	41	44	19
Walsall	21	5	6	10	43	53	16
Thames	22	6	3	13	25	53	15
Norwich City	22	5	4	13	26	41	14
Newport County	22	5	2	15	40	67	12

SCOTTISH LEAGUE.—DIV. I.

Airdrieonians	2	G. Morton	0
Celtic	3	Falkirk	0
Cowdenbeath	1	Queen's Park	3
Dundee	2	East Fife	1
Hearts	3	G. Rangers	0
Leith Ath.	0	Aberdeen	0
Motherwell	6	Hibernian	0
Partick Thistle	3	Kilmarnock	1
St. Mirren	4	Hamilton Acads.	2

	P.	W.	D.	L.	For	Agst.	Pts.
Celtic	19	14	4	1	59	20	32
Rangers	20	14	3	3	55	19	31
Motherwell	21	12	6	3	56	29	30
Partick Thistle	21	13	2	6	48	28	28
Hamilton Acds.	22	12	3	7	41	26	27
Dundee	20	12	3	5	45	28	27
Hearts	21	12	2	7	53	35	26
Cowdenbeath	21	10	3	8	33	35	23
Aberdeen	22	10	2	10	42	36	22
St. Mirren	21	9	4	8	34	33	22
Morton	21	9	3	9	43	49	21
Airdrieonians	21	9	3	9	33	43	21
Queen's Park	21	8	4	9	41	39	20
Kilmarnock	21	8	2	11	33	38	18
Clyde	20	5	4	11	33	44	14
Falkirk	21	6	2	13	40	58	14
Leith Ath.	21	4	6	11	23	48	14
Hibernians	21	5	2	14	31	56	12
Ayr United	20	1	7	12	24	53	9
East Fife	21	1	3	17	24	73	5

SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

EASTERN SECTION.

Aldershot	1	Dartford	1
Guildford C.	4	Norwich C. Res.	2
Sheppey United	4	Folkestone	1

WESTERN SECTION.

Llanelly	7	Bath City	2
Newport Co. Res.	1	Torquay U. Res.	3

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THE LEAGUE.—DIVISION III. (Northern).

Carlisle United	0	Chesterfield	0
Crewe Alex.	2	Accrington Stan.	1
Doncaster Rov.	1	Gateshead	1
Hartlepools Un.	2	Halifax Town	1
Hull City	1	Stockport Co.	1
Lincoln City	4	New Brighton	0
Nelson	0	Rochdale	0
Tranmere Rov.	5	Barrow	0
Wigan Boro	2	Darlington	0
Wrexham	2	Southport	4
York City	1	Rotherham Un.	1

	P.	W.	D.	L.	For	Agst.	Pts.
Lincoln City	21	15	3	3	51	22	33
Tranmere Rovers	22	12	2	5	49	44	26
Chesterfield	22	12	5	5	50	30	29
Stockport County	21	13	3	5	47	30	29
Hull City	22	11	6	5	54	32	28
Wigan Boro'	21	13	1	7	44	37	27
Carlisle Utd.	21	12	2	7	48	30	26
Wrexham	22	11	4	7	51	38	26
Southport	21	11	2	8	43	35	24
Gateshead	20	6	7	7	30	34	19
Accrington S.	23	8	3	12	44	65	19
Doncaster R.	21	6	6	9	36	30	18
Hartlepools U.	21	8	2	11	42	42	18
York City	21	8	2	11	40	44	18
Rotherham U.	22	6	6	10	47	53	18
Darlington	21	7	3	11	37	33	17
Halifax Tn.	21	6	5	10	27	49	17
Crewe Alex.	21	8	0	13	36	55	16
New Brighton	22	6	4	12	25	46	16
Rochdale	21	6	3	12	38	58	15
Barrow	22	5	4	13	26	55	14
Nelson	21	3	5	13	23	46	11

CENTRAL LEAGUE.

Birmingham Res.	2	Derby Co. Res.	2
Blackpool Res.	4	Blackburn R. Res.	1
Burnley Res.	2	Bolton Wans. Res.	4
Leeds U. Res.	1	Everton Res.	1
Liverpool Res.	1	Huddersfield T. Res.	5
Manchester U. Res.	1	Aston Villa Res.	1
Oldham Ath. Res.	3	Wolverhampton Res.	2
Preston N.E. Res.	1	Bury Res.	2
Sheffield W. Res.	3	Stoke C. Res.	0
Stockport Co. Res.	3	Sheffield U. Res.	2
West Brom. A. Res.	1	Manchester C. Res.	4

MIDLAND LEAGUE.

Bradford C. Res.	4	Lincoln City Res.	1
Chesterfield Res.	0	Newark Town	3
Frickley Col.	0	Scunthorpe Un.	8
Gainsboro' Trin.	9	Wombwell	3
Grantham	2	Notts Co. Res.	1
Grimsby Town Res.	6	Denaby United	0
Mansfield Town	2	Barnsley Res.	1
Mexborough A.	3	Boston	1
Scarborough	5	Doncaster R. Res.	2
Shirebrook	9	Loughborough C.	2

LONDON COMBINATION.

DIVISION I.

Coventry C. Res.	6	Clapton O. Res.	2
Fulham Res.	1	Charlton A. Res.	0
Leicester C. Res.	3	Watford Res.	2
*Luton Tn. Res.	0	Chelsea Res	0
Millwall Res.	2	Brentford Res.	2
Q. Park Rgrs. Res.	1	Arsenal Res.	2
Southend U. Res.	0	Crystal Pal. Res.	3
Swansea Res.	3	Portsmouth Res.	1
Tottenham H. Res.	1	Cardiff C. Res.	2
West Ham Res.	2	Reading Res.	1

*Abandoned after 37 min. in first half.

DIVISION II.

Lovell's Ath.	2	Bristol City Res.	5
Peterboro' and F. U.	0	Thames Res.	1
Swindon Town Res.	5	Bournemouth Res.	1

Amateur Football.

UNBEATEN WIMBLEDON.

CASUALS OVERWHELM KINGSTONIAN.

WIMBLEDON remain unbeaten Isthmian League leaders. Yesterday they beat CLAPTON in a strenuous game at Plough Lane. Christie (2) and Hopkins scored for Wimbledon; Dand and James for Clapton. WYCOMBE WANDERERS were both faster and cleverer than NUNHEAD, the champions. Topping (2), Brown, Britnell, and Cox scored for Wycombe; W. Saggers and Tarrant for Nunhead. KINGSTONIAN could not hold the fast moving attacks of the CASUALS. Shearer (3), Jenkins, Cree, and Griffiths scored goals for the Casuals to the one Gibson scored for Kingstonian.

Although ILFORD were again without Dellow, they were much too good for OXFORD CITY at Ilford. Salmon made a very capable deputy for Dellow, leading the attack with skill and judgment. Salmon, Potter, Drane, and Welsh obtained goals for Ilford, and Oxford City failed to reply.

ST. ALBANS CITY won their first Isthmian League victory of the month at TUFNELL PARK. Clark, Figg, and Minter played a big part in the City's success. Minter and Smart scored their goals, and McGowan headed one for Tufnell Park. Their attack weakened by the absence of W. H. Warnes and H. May, WOKING were beaten at home by LEYTONSTONE. The visiting forwards maintained a very fast pace on a waterlogged ground, and Leytonstone would have won by a larger margin than 2—1 had it not been for S. Sturt's fine work in Woking's goal. Smith and Birch were Leytonstone's scorers, and Bolton obtained Woking's goal.

CORINTHIANS WIN.

BOHEMIANS RALLY, BUT ARE OUTPACED.

Corinthians 6, Bohemians 3.

The Corinthians played bright football in the opening half of their game at Crystal Palace against the Bohemians. The Dublin team included McMahon, while the Corinthians were without Baker, Creek acting as his deputy. Heavy rain fell when play started. After six minutes Fabian scored for the Corinthians, while Kemp-Welch soon added a second point. McMahon retired hurt, and a substitute was permitted. Ellis replied for the Bohemians. Doggart shot a third goal for the Corinthians shortly before the interval.

In much improved weather Fabian, four minutes after crossing over, scored the Corinthians' fourth goal with an excellent effort. The visitors retaliated, and Dennis beat Creek in capital style. Fourteen minutes later Bryne gained a third goal for the Bohemians, who had now settled down, but before the end came the Corinthians made further attacks and Kemp-Welch put on two further goals to give his side a victory by 6 goals to 3.

ATHENIAN LEAGUE.

Barking Town	6	Wealdstone	1
Bromley	4	Walthamstow Avenue	4
Cheshunt	3	Southall	2
Hampstead	4	Hayes	4
Sutton United	1	Redhill	0

RESERVE SECTION.

Redhill	3	Sutton United	1
Southall	2	Cheshunt	1
Wealdstone	2	Barking Town	4

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE.

Wimbledon	3	Clapton	2
Tufnell Park	1	St. Albans City	2
Casuals	6	Kingstonian	1
Ilford	4	Oxford City	0
Wycombe Wanderers.	5	Nunhead	2
Woking	1	Leytonstone	2

KENT LEAGUE.

Northfleet	7	Bexley Heath	1
Sittingbourne	1	Tunbridge Wells	5
Tilbury	4	Grays Thurrock	0
Folkestone	4	Maidstone	0
Dartford	2	Ashford	1
Chatham	12	Sittingbourne P.M.	0

LONDON LEAGUE.

PREMIER DIVISION.

Carshalton Athletic.	1	Finchley	8
Cray Wanderers	2	Bostall Heath	2
Dagenham Town	6	Walthamstow Grange	1
Tooting Town	1	Mitcham Wanderers	1

SECOND DIVISION.

Finchley	2	Erith and Belvedere	0

SPARTAN LEAGUE.

PREMIER DIVISION.

Aylesbury United	2	Hounslow	2
Brentwood & Warley	4	Great Eastern	2
Colchester Town	2	Metropolitan Police	3
Maidenhead United	1	Lyons Club	2

DIVISION I.

Waterlows (Duns.)	9	Apsley	1
Staines Town	6	Eastbourne Comrades	3
Hitchin Town	8	Watford Spartan	1

DIVISION II.—EASTERN SECTION.

Bishop's Stortford	4	Apsley Res.	3
Polytechnic	0	Callenders Athletic	7
Hertford Town Res.	2	Hoddesdon Town	6
Waltham Comrades	1	Lea Bridge Gas	4

DIVISION II.—WESTERN SECTION.

Hounslow Res.	5	Farnham United	2
Berkhamsted T. Res.	5	Maidenhead U. Res.	0

SURREY SENIOR CUP.

Epsom Town	3	Egham	2

SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE.

Ealing Association	3	Alexandra Park	0
Barclays Bank Res.	2	Bk. of England Res.	2
Merton Res.	5	Ibis Res.	2
Alleyn Old Boys Res.	1	Hilgate Res.	2

CLUB MATCHES.

Barnet	8	Baldock Town	4
Winchmore Hill	9	Winchmore Hill Soc.	1
Leyton	3	H. Braef Stant (Hol.)	2
Old Lyonians IV.	2	Uxbridge Jun. I.L.	2
Carshalton	5	South London	3
Horsemen	0	Carshalton	4
Aquarius Res.	1	Kew Assoc. Res.	4
Lloyds Bank	1	Catford Wanderers	4
Britannic House	1	Banque Belge	2
Lancing Old Boys	2	Old Bradfieldians	0
Old Brentwoods	6	Maori	0
Uxbridge Town Res.	6	Cowley St. Lawrence	3
Old Mercers	0	Old Colfeians	0
Corinthians	6	Bohemians	3

GOAL SCORERS.

DIVISION I.—Arsenal (Brain 3, Jack 3, Bastin); Blackpool (Carr); Aston Villa (Mandley 2, Vials); West Bromwich Albion (Richardson); Burnley (Smith, Hope); Burnley (Porter own goal); Cardiff City (Jones); Charlton Athletic (Astley, Lennox); Bradford City (Peel); Everton (Dean 4, Johnson, Stein 4); Plymouth Argyle (Black); Reading (McPherson); Tottenham Hotspur (Davies, M'Culloghan); Southampton (McIlwaine, Haines); Preston North End (Bargh); Stoke City (Wilson, Armitage); Millwall (Wadsworth, Landells 2); Wolverhampton Wanderers (Hartill 2, Phillips, Bacon); Nottingham Forest (Dent 2).

DIVISION III. (SOUTH).—Bournemouth (Whitehouse, Sherman, Scott, Eyre); Swindon Town (Eddleston); Luton (Clarke); Brighton and Hove A. (Nicol 4, Kirkwood); Clapton Orient (Fletcher, Tricker); Walsall (Eyres, Barnes 2, Cooper 2); Crystal Palace (Butler, Simpson, Clarke); Southend United (Shankly); Northampton Town (Bowen); Bristol Rovers (Attwood); Norwich City (Pearson); Exeter City (Houghton 2); Notts County (Keetley 2, Andrews, Lovatt); Coventry City (Lake); Thames (McCarthy); Torquay United (J. Wright, Trotter, Waller); Watford (White, McBain); Fulham (Haley, Dowden).

DIVISION III. (NORTH).—Crewe Alexandra (Wright, Hannibal); Accrington Stanley (Smythe); Barrow Rovers (Smith); Gateshead (Taylor); Hartlepools United (Thompson, Simmons); Halifax Town (Pape); Hull City (Raleigh); Stockport County (Matthews); Lincoln City (Lax, Kitching 2, Dinsdale); Tranmere Rovers (Watts, J. Kennedy, Dixon 2, Lewis); Wigan Borough (Wilson, Crewe); Wrexham (Mustard, Parden); Southport (Cowen, Waterson 2, Buxton (own goal); York City (Tomlinson); Rotherham United (Hick).

YESTERDAY'S ATTENDANCES.

The following were the attendance figures for the chief matches in the four divisions of the League:—

Arsenal v. Blackpool	40,000
Newcastle United v. Sheffield Wednesday	36,000
Everton v. Plymouth Argyle	35,000
Sheffield United v. Birmingham	30,000
Cardiff City v. Swansea Town	30,000
Aston Villa v. Manchester United	25,000
Chelsea v. Grimsby Town	25,000
Blackburn Rovers v. Liverpool	20,000
Derby County v. Leicester City	20,000
Manchester City v. Sunderland	20,000
Wolverhampton Wanderers v. Notts Forest	20,000
Bristol City v. West Bromwich Albion	18,000
Bury v. Burnley	18,000
Notts County v. Coventry	15,000
Hull City v. Stockport County	8,000

RIFLE SHOOTING.

The North London and the City rifle clubs took part in a "wappinschaws" competition at Bisley. Each competitor had to take a prize with him, and the collection of articles included Treasury notes, wines and spirits, boxes of cigars, books, etc., and the top scorer had first choice of the collection. The highest scorers were J. R. B. Griggs, B. S. Cook, and W. C. Cook, with 67 points each, and Messrs. A. Eccles, A. E. Keen, and E. G. Thorpe scored 66 each.

DRAMATIC END TO FIRST TEST.

ENGLAND LOSE TO SOUTH AFRICA BY 28 RUNS.

COLLAPSE FOLLOWS A RECOVERY.

JOHANNESBURG, Saturday.

There was a thrilling finish to the first of the series of Test matches between South Africa and England, and after a keen and exciting struggle victory rested to-day with South Africa by twenty-eight runs.

After being dismissed for 126 on Wednesday, South Africa fought back with great spirit on Boxing Day, and left off 236 runs on with three wickets in hand.

Any hopes South Africa had of piling up a big lead were soon dashed, for they lost their three remaining wickets in twenty minutes for the addition of only three runs, the final score being 306. Viljoen, who had made forty-three overnight, played on in Hammond's second over. He gave an impressive display of good, steady batting, and in the course of an hour and forty minutes hit five 4's. Nupen was bowled in the same over at 306, and then Voce, who had opened the bowling with Hammond, bowled Vincent, to end the innings.

England's Bad Start.

England's attempt to get 240 runs to win started badly, for they lost both their opening batsmen, Wyatt and Leyland, with only 22 on the board. Wyatt gave a chance off the second ball he received from Newson, snicking it in the direction of Nupen. South Africa's captain put up his hands, but the ball went through and struck him such a hard blow in the mouth that it bled profusely and he was forced to leave the field for ten minutes.

Two wickets had fallen in twenty-five minutes, but England's hopes receded further when Nupen, coming on for Catterall for the first time at 25, got Hendren brilliantly caught by Mitchell at second slip in his second over. Thus three wickets were down for 30.

Turnbull joined Hammond, who had made 7, and the pair were together at the luncheon interval, the score being 46 for three (Hammond 17 and Turnbull 6).

Hammond was playing the bowling confidently, but when 11 he had a narrow escape of being caught and bowled, Nupen just failing to get his left hand to the ball. McMillan came on at 39 for the last over before lunch, but no further wickets fell.

A Grim Struggle.

Nupen started the attack after lunch, and Turnbull drove his second ball through covers to the boundary, the over yielding in all 8 runs. Turnbull was reproducing his aggressive hitting of the first innings, and survived two appeals for leg-before-wicket in Nupen's next over in an effort to pull him to the boundary. Then he achieved his objective by pulling the South African captain twice to the boundary in the same over.

Turnbull, however, continued to show his best form of the tour, and quickly approached his 50. Turnbull reached his 50 after fifty-five minutes' batting, and the batsmen had now gained complete mastery. Nupen made a double change, himself relieving McMillan at 114 and Balaskas coming on for Newson at 117. This was the young googlie bowler's first spell, but his bowling, like the rest, lacked sting.

When 56, Turnbull played a ball from Nupen to mid-off, where Vincent picked it up and returned it. The ball struck Turnbull on the head as he was running and afterwards went on for a boundary. He was not seriously hurt, however, and resumed after being attended to on the field. Almost immediately afterwards he was completely beaten by Nupen, the fourth wicket falling at 131.

Hammond welcomed Chapman's arrival by reaching his 50 after 105 minutes. Nupen did not intend to let Chapman settle down. He made another double change. Putting Vincent on at his end at 142, and at 148 he went on at the other end in place of Newson. This proved a wise move, for he had Chapman smartly taken by Mitchell at fine slip. Two runs later White stopped a straight one from Nupen with his pads, and six wickets were down for 154.

The Fight for Runs.

Tate helped Hammond to carry the score to 164 before the Gloucester batsman was the victim of a brilliant piece of stumping by Cameron off Vincent. Hammond batted dourly for an invaluable 63, which included four boundary hits. He was accorded a wonderful ovation as he made his way back to the pavilion. Cameron also came in for applause for his splendid work in getting rid of the most dangerous man, thereby enabling the bowlers to get among the tail-enders.

Voce then joined Tate, but the Notts bowler did not last long, Vincent getting him caught by Nupen at second slip before he had scored. the eighth wicket falling at 169. It was a dramatic collapse.

Tate played very steadily and made many good strokes. When the players retired for tea with the score at 193 for eight, England, with two wickets in hand, required 47 runs to win, Tate's score then being 27 and Duckworth's 1.

Nupen's Fine Work.

A breathless silence prevailed when Tate and Duckworth came out to resume batting after tea.

MOTOR MATTERS

THE NEW FREEDOM.

THIRD PARTY RISKS.

By GEORGE C. STEAD.

On Thursday morning the motorist will awaken in a new world as far as motoring conditions are concerned. No longer will he have to worry about an arbitrary speed limit, and he will be able to drive as fast as he likes, having due regard to safety and road conditions.

If the motorist will have greater freedom in 1931, he will also have greater responsibilities. The man who drives recklessly or dangerously after January 1st will be liable to much heavier penalties.

Other innovations for the New Year include compulsory insurance against third party risks. No vehicle must then be used unless the driver is covered against any claims from third parties for personal injury. The insurance certificate, like the driving licence, must be produced on demand.

The New Year will see the new mobile police patrols in action, and this development in traffic control will be watched with great interest. Their functions are not only punitive. They are also advisory.

The new offence of "careless driving" will come into force on New Year's Day. This is not so bad as dangerous driving, but the penalties are by no means negligible. Numerous modifications have been made in the penalties that can be inflicted, and, in addition, we shall have the Highway Code as a guide to road conduct. It is advisable for every motorist to obtain a copy of the new rules and regulations, as some offence might be committed in ignorance.

The first few weeks of the operation of the new Act will be particularly interesting. It is highly improbable that there will be any appreciable rise in the speed at which cars are driven, but should this be noticeable, the cause will probably be found in better traffic control. I do not anticipate a large increase in the number of offences. For the first week or two motorists will no doubt be extra cautious.

FROST DANGERS.

One of the greatest troubles with which the motorist has to contend is that of frost. If by any mischance the water in the cooling system is allowed to freeze, the usual result is a cracked radiator or water-jacket.

While such devices as radiator shutters and thermostats will maintain the temperature of the water when the car is in use, freezing may occur if the car is left standing for lengthy periods during a frost. Freezing of the water can be prevented by the addition of certain chemicals, and in this connection I have received an interesting communication from an expert chemist.

The only possible materials that can be employed without fear of corrosion are methylated spirit and glycerine. Care must be taken that only a suitable grade of glycerine is employed, as ordinary commercial glycerine is sometimes contaminated with salts which have considerable corrosive powers. Suitable grades, however, are now marketed for this purpose, and are specially manufactured to meet the needs of motorists.

Research work carried out by the United States Bureau of Standards give the temperatures at which freezing starts in solutions of various strengths, and shows glycerine and alcohol to be of almost equal value in lowering the freezing point. With a 10 per cent. volume of either glycerine or alcohol freezing commences at from 3 to 5 degrees below the freezing point of water. A 40 per cent. mixture will stand 32 degrees of frost.

When using glycerine or alcohol mixtures it should be remembered that both glycerine and alcohol go through a mushy stage before they get solid. Even if the mixture should freeze owing to intense cold, the expansion takes place when it is in the mushy stage, and not as it solidifies. Thus, even in the event of total freezing, there is no danger of cracked water-jackets.

The advantage of using glycerine over methylated spirit is that the former does not evaporate when the radiator gets warm. Also, since the boiling point of glycerine solution is higher, the engine in which it is used can be run during the winter at a normal summer operating temperature.

From the information which I have been given it would appear that a solution containing one-fifth glycerine by volume would be proof against freezing in all but extreme cases. Such a solution will stand 11 degrees of frost.

"KNOW YOUR CAR."

An instructive booklet has recently come into my hands which should be of interest to all motorists. Its title is as above, and it has been produced to meet the demand for information concerning the care and upkeep of the motor-car.

In a foreword the authors state that the motor-car is one of the finest assemblies of machinery in existence, yet its mechanisms are not complicated. Master its principles, and you will be repaid many times over for the attention and care which you give it. Copies of "Know Your Car" can be obtained on application to the Anglo-American Oil Co.

It is nearly twenty-five years since the A.A. first supplied a road sign to a highway authority. Official appreciation of the value of A.A. signs has never been so great as it is to-day.

A memorandum issued from Whitehall last April advocated new types of road sign, "Advance" and "Direction" signs and safety posts, and referred to "Loodway" signs, all of which were introduced by the A.A. Under the new Road Act the proper fixing of road signs becomes of added importance.

Light Lamps (London) : 4.27 p.m.

THE "LAFFERTY" CUP.

SANDHURST REGAIN IT FROM AUSTRALIA.

The "Lafferty" cup, the athletic trophy annually competed for by the military and air force cadet colleges of the Empire, has, as a result of the 1930 competition, been again won by the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, and so comes back to England after being held for three years by the Royal Military College of Australia. The cup was presented in 1920 by Mr. Lafferty, a resident of Canada, for competition among the cadets of the R.M.C., Sandhurst, the R.M.A., Woolwich, the R.M.C. of Australia, and the R.M.C. of Canada and for the first eight years these colleges regularly competed, Sandhurst winning the trophy in each of the first six years, while Australia won it for the first time in 1927, and repeated their success in 1928 and 1929. In the latter year the Royal Air Force Cadets of Cranwell College joined the competition, which is decided on the best aggregate of four events—a one and a-half mile relay race, a one mile flat race, 50 yards swimming and high jump.

Two records have been made in the competition this year. First, Sandhurst made record time in the relay race, but this was afterwards beaten by the Australian College by less than a second. In the swimming Sandhurst won by over a second, their time being a record for the competition. In the aggregates Sandhurst have obtained exactly the same number of points as they did last year (14), but Australia dropped no less than 5½ on their last year's total of 18. The results were:—

1½ MILE RELAY.—1, R.M.C., Australia, 5 min. 23 7-10 sec., 7 pts.; 2, R.M.C., Sandhurst, 5 min. 24 2-5 sec., 5; 3, R.A.F.C., Cranwell, 5 min. 38 1-5 sec., 3; 4, R.M.A., Woolwich 5 min. 41 4-5 sec., 1; 5, R.M.C., Canada, 5 min. 48 3-5 sec., 0.

ONE MILE.—1, R.M.C., Australia, 4 min. 34 5-10 sec., 4 pts.; 2, R.M.A., Woolwich, 4 min. 38 1-5 sec., 3; 3, R.M.C., Sandhurst, 4 min. 38 4-5 sec., 2; 4, R.A.F.C., Cranwell, 4 min. 50 4-5 sec., 1; 5, R.M.C., Canada, 4 min. 52 3-5 sec., 0.

HIGH JUMP.—1, R.M.A., Woolwich, 5 ft. 8 in., 4 pts.; 2, R.M.C., Sandhurst, 5 ft. 7½ in., 3; 3, R.M.C., Canada, 5 ft. 6¼ in., 2; 4 (equal), R.M.C., Australia, and R.A.F.C., Cranwell, 5 ft. 5 in., ½ pt. each.

50 YARDS SWIMMING.—1, R.M.C., Sandhurst, 25 1-5 sec., 4 pts.; 2, R.M.C., Canada, 26 3-5 sec., 3; 3, R.M.A., Woolwich, 28 5-10 sec., 2; 4, R.A.F.C., Cranwell, 29 1-5 sec., 1; 5, R.M.C., Australia, 29 4-10 sec., 0.

AGGREGATE OF POINTS.—1, R.M.C., Sandhurst, 14 pts.; 2 R.M.C. of Australia, 11½; 3, R.M.A., Woolwich, 10; 4, R.A.F.C., Cranwell, 5½; 5, R.M.C. of Canada, 5.

RACING NOTES.

PROGRESS OF THE "NATIONAL" CANDIDATES.

GIB'S OUTSTANDING POSITION.

THE IMPROVEMENT OF BALLASPORT.

By "FAIRWAY."

Whatever disappointment Percy Woodland may have felt at Kempton Park on Boxing Day when Sir H. Wernher's Ballasport beat The Moy, a gelding he had reasons for thinking would go near winning, and did so without an effort, must have been countered when he recalled later that at least Gib, the most brilliant of the young chasers of last winter season, proved at Sandown Park a few weeks ago that he is at least two stones better. The way in which Ballasport won on Friday pays a tribute to Gib that is certain to be remembered when next Woodland exploits him. Of the younger brigade among the best jumpers Gib is certain to be the one that will interest us most in connection with the "National"; in fact, I think we can safely assume that he will be the most discussed of all. What we can be certain of is that there will be many who will oppose him on the score that he did badly when asked to tackle the Aintree fences not long ago. They are likely to say that over "park" fences he is brilliant, but that he has his limitations, and they will attempt to prove this by a reference to the fact that Easter Hero got him unbalanced and caused him to fall when they figured in the Cheltenham Gold Cup last March.

On the other hand, there will be many who will continue to champion him, and, to support their views, will refer to the fact that he stands exposed as being two stones better than Ballasport over three miles and five furlongs at Sandown Park. What, of course, must not be lost sight of is that Ballasport has probably improved a lot since. He is, in fact, a gelding that has made considerable headway since he arrived in this country from Ireland. At that time he was a particular sort of customer. It is quite likely that Ivor Anthony will respect his age, he is but six, and keep him another year before asking him to take on the older and naturally more seasoned horses at Aintree this coming March. Without him there will be many other youthful geldings engaged, but Gib seems to be the best by a long way.

A MATTER OF BAD LUCK.

To favour his chance one has to overlook the fact that he did not do well when he was introduced to the "country," and this we can afford to do. His defeat by Kakushin was more a matter of bad luck than anything else. He has proved himself a great jumper, and I judge him to be better in this and other respects than his stable-companion, Drin, who, incidentally, was seen out the following day and won in good fashion. What Drin is capable of Gib should also do, and I am therefore looking forward with much interest to this gelding's next and subsequent appearances, which are to lead up to the greatest test of all. In addition to Gib, Woodland also has Gregalach in good trim, and, as the winner at Aintree two seasons ago, his progress in the New Year will also be watched with interest.

It is of little account that Easter Hero had nothing more to do at Dunstall Park on Boxing Day than walk over, for had he been opposed we should have learned little more. What was gathered, however, is that Mr. J. H. Whitney's gelding is as sound as ever, and, with his stable companion, Sir Lindsay, Jack Anthony has as wonderful a double chance as Percy Woodland and Frank Hartigan, who, presumably, will again exploit Shaun Goilin as well as the much-improved Kakushin. There are other trainers who have planned to have two chances, but their prospects are obviously not so bright as the three mentioned.

AN INSTRUCTIVE PHASE.

With all these great chasers due to appear in events of note in the New Year, there is much to look forward to, for, in addition, we have yet to see the best of the hurdlers. Midlothian was not produced, through, I fancy, the conditions being unsuitable. Annaly, his stable companion, was brought out on Friday, and it was not surprised to see him beaten. It was difficult to name anything with brighter prospects, yet the obvious lack of courage he showed when seen out the previous week-end gave a warning that he is liable to disappoint. Possibly Lord Rosebery's colt will do better over two miles.

There are two excellent programmes staged at both Newbury and Manchester this week, and the latter gathering is of importance because there is the Victory Steeplechase and Victory Hurdle included, two very popular handicaps that are usually responsible for spirited wagering. The cards at Newbury are little less attractive. The Didcot Handicap Hurdle will probably include among the starters such as Lord Glanely's Burgee, which I regard as a particularly promising young hurdler, and which I foresee will, when at his best, quickly take a place near the top of the handicap. This event may be the start of a winning run, if, as is likely, Bob Stone misses the race for the Victory Hurdle.

A LIKELY WINNER.

Annaly is engaged in the Juvenile Hurdle the same afternoon, but this should be won by either Faranga or Norman Abbot. These two accounted for Annaly on Friday, and Faranga proved the better. The other lost his winning chance through not running straight to the last hurdles. Also in the race is King Cobra, who, I think, is certain to improve upon his Hurst Park form. His chance appeals most of all. Midlothian will probably be produced on the second afternoon in the Berkshire Hurdle. In view of the fact that much is expected of him, his appearance will certainly add interest to the race.

If in anything like his best form, Patron Saint should win the Victory Steeplechase at Manchester, but I doubt if he ever will be. H. Harrison also has Killia engaged, and I prefer this seven-year-old to his stable companion. It is possible to mention two or three with good chances, including Martyr, whose prospects seem the likeliest. Peter L will be difficult to beat in the Victory Hurdle the next afternoon, but he may not beat Bob Stone. I append a few fancies:—

NEWBURY.—Tuesday

Reading Steeplechase.—PRINCE OF ATHENS.
Didcot Handicap Hurdle.—BURGEE.
Juvenile Hurdle.—KING COBRA.

NEWBURY.—Wednesday.

Lambourn Handicap Steeplechase.—TOY BELL.
Berkshire Hurdle.—MIDLOTHIAN.
Moderate Handicap Hurdle.—BLACK ARMSTRONG.

MANCHESTER.—Thursday.

Club Hurdle.—MUTUAL BENEFIT.
Victory Steeplechase.—MARTYR.

MANCHESTER.—Friday.

Victory Handicap Hurdle.—BOB STONE.
Manchester Handicap Steeplechase.—PRIBISHER.
Canal Steeplechase.—ROYAL DAYLIGHT.

DOUBLE FOR STAR OF ITALY.

CALCUTTA, Saturday.

Following its victory in the King-Emperor Cup for the second year in succession last week, Sir Victor Sassoon's Star of Italy brought off a brilliant double yesterday by winning the Viceroy's Cup. In this race last year Star of Italy finished second. Result:—Star of Italy, 1; Acumen, 2; Highness, 3. Seven ran. Won by ¼ length, 2½ lengths.—Reuter's Special Service.

Yesterday's Racing.

EASY VICTORIES.

INSURANCE'S PROMISING DEBUT.

BARBIZON UNPLACED.

FROM OUR RACING CORRESPONDENT.

KEMPTON PARK, Saturday.

Percy Woodland was not so fortunate this afternoon as at Hurst Park a week ago, where he won the first two events. The performance was expected to be repeated by the aid of Irina and Burning Bush. Both, however, failed. The former managed to struggle into second place to Duplicator in the Chiswick Steeplechase, but never appeared to hold a chance against the winner, when the latter, ridden by his owner, drew alongside half a mile out. Duplicator is evidently a good plater. Burning Bush failed to beat Moontoy in the Kenton Steeplechase, and was probably upset by the holding state of the going. Meander put up a good performance, and once again Grandene fell.

F. Wootton did not run either of the smart platers he had engaged in the Mortlake Hurdle, and this paved the way for Sheerness to score from Hilltoi. Lordi failed to make any show in the Gamecock Handicap Steeplechase, which Favourite Star won from Guiding Light. D. Williams was lucky to recover his seat when Mr. Ambrose Clark's gelding pecked at the last fence. Of those that were unplaced Sandy Hook gave a most promising show. Glangesia also ran well. They can both be expected to win soon.

Insurance, who proved himself useful on the flat, one of his successes being at Chepstow in the autumn, when he won the Welsh St. Leger, has the making of a useful hurdler. He was introduced in the Twickenham Hurdle, and if he has a little to learn of the art of hurdling, he is certain to be taught at the hands of Tabor. Golden Cloud put up a good show, and was not beaten until approaching the last hurdles He took the obstacles with better style than the winner, but did not produce as much stamina. Details:—

1.0.—CHISWICK (S.) CHASE (£150) (3m.).
Duplicator (Mr. Barker), b g Glasgerion or Count Anthony—Rusticate, 5yrs, 11st-8 (Owner) 1
Irina (Mr. Heathorn), ch g by Irishman—Nelusta, 5yrs, 11st-5 ..... (Speck) 2
Letham (Mr. White) b g by Lochryan—Mrs. Partington, 10yrs. 10st-13 ..... (Davis) 3
Also ran: Grandene, Zadig, Exeat, Primrose Knight, Mister Mate. (Winner trained by Payne.)
"Sporting Chronicle."—11 to 10 agst Burning Bush, 5 to 2 MOONTOY, 6 to 1 Meander, 10 to 1 Grandene, 100 to 6 Zadig, Primrose Knight, 20 to 1 others. 2l., 4l.
Tote.—Win, 8s. 6d.; places 2s. 9d., 4s., 2s. 6d.; win pool, 7,366; place pool, 6,155.

2.0.—MORTLAKE (S.) H'CAP. HURDLE (3-Y.-O.) (£200) (1¼m.).
Sheerness (Major Mairs), b g by Galloper Light—Anonyma, 12st. ..... (H. Hamey) 1
Hilltoi (Mr. Froome), b g by Achtoi—Radiana, 12st.-3. ..... (Pellerin) 2
Grand Minister (Mr. Willett), ch g by Grand Parade—High Thoughts. 11st.-10 ..... (Adams) 3
Also ran: Tangerine Boy, Icy Lass, Spanish Pride, Monte Fiume, Rose of Spain. (Winner trained by Owner.)
"Sporting Chronicle."—6 to 4 agst Rose of Spain, 3 to 1 SHEERNESS, 9 to 2 Hilltoi, 7 to 1 Tangerine Boy, 8 to 1 Spanish Pride, 20 to 1 others. 2l., 4l.
Tote.—Win, 7s. 6d.; places, 3s., 3s., 16s.; win pool, 8,139; place pool, 6,281.

2.30.—GAMECOCK H'CAP CHASE (£300) (2¾m.).
Favourite Star (Mr. Clark), b g by Denis d'Or—Comfiture. 6yrs, 10st-5 ..... (Williams) 1
Guiding Light (Mr. Smith), br g by Cyllius—Candle Fish, 9yrs, 11st-8 ..... (Payne) 2
Glangesia (Mr. Mellon), gr g by Le Souvenir—Mailline, 10yrs, 11st-2 ..... (Browne) 3
Also ran: Lordi, Sandy Hook, Aruntius. (Winner trained by Anthony.)
"Sporting Chronicle."—2 to 1 agst FAVOURITE STAR, 5 to 2 Lordi, 4 to 1 Guiding Light, 6 to 1 Glangesia, 100 to 6 Sandy Hook, 20 to 1 Aruntius. 4l., bad.
Tote.—Win, 6s.; places, 3s. 3d., 4s. 3d.; win pool, 8,456; place pool, 3,575.

3.0.—TWICKENHAM HURDLE (£400) (2m.).
Insurance (Mr. Carr), b g by Achtoi—Prudent Girl, 3yrs, 10st-5 ..... (Ingham) 1
Golden Cloud (Mr. Cuddy), gr g by Milesius—Fariat, 4yrs 11st-9 ..... (Fleming) 2
Flambent (Mrs. Robinson), br g by Flamboyant—Crusade, 5yrs, 12st (Mr. Philip, jun.) 3
Also ran: Barbizon, Roi des Enfers, Eileandonan, Carbineer, Footmark. (Winner trained by Tabor.)
"Sporting Chronicle."—5 to 4 agst. INSURANCE, 7 to 2. Golden Cloud, 5 to 1 Barbizon, Roi des Enfers, 10 to 1 Carbineer, 100 to 6 others. 4l., 6l.
Tote.—Win 5s. 9d.; places, 3s. 6d., 3s. 6d., 10s.; win pool, 11,810; place pool, 6,389.

3.30.—MODERATE H'CAP HURDLE (£200) (2m.).
Fomorian (Miss Ellis), b g by Knight of Kilcash—Little Duffer, 5yrs, 10st-11 ... (Payne) 1
Santhome (Capt. Sassoon), b g by Santorme—Home Sweet Home, 9yrs, 10st-13 (Speck) 2
ToOran (Mr. Young), b g by Trespasser—Corusca, 6yrs, 10st-11 ..... (Sargeant) 3
Also ran: Finance, Cathalan, Saint Gall, Faithful Garry, King's Writ, Wild Rake, Guerrillero, South Era. (Winner trained by Payne.)
"Sporting Chronicle."—6 to 4 agst Santhome, 7 to 4 FOMORIAN, 5 to 1 Faithful Garry, 100 to 9 Cathalan, 100 to 8 South Era, 20 to 1 others. 2l., same.
Tote.—Win, 9s. 3d.; places, 3s. 3d., 3s., 8s. 6d.; win pool, 11,198; place pool, 7,166.
Total Investments.—Win. £5,336 18s.; place, £3,702 2s.

TOTALISATOR DAILY DOUBLE.

Sheerness and Favourite Star. Dividend, £6 10s.; pool, £1,052 10s. 145 winning tickets.

WOLVERHAMPTON.

12.45.—STANTON (S.) H'CAP CHASE (£100) (2m.).—**Polange** (3 to 1 agst., Mr. Elliott), 1; Golden Light (11 to 10 on, Mr. Thackray), 2. 3 ran, only 2 finished. (Winner trained by Wint.) 20l.
Tote (2s. stake).—Win, 6s. 9d.; pool, 2,160.

1.15.—COMPTON (S.) H'CAP HURDLE (£100) (2m.).—**Longlen** (100 to 8 agst., Gurney), 1; Confrere (6 to 1, Butchers), 2; Angel Pavement (5 to 1, Mulcaster) 3. 13 ran. (Winner trained by Newey.) 4l., 2l.
Tote.—Win, 71s 9d.; places, 16s., 5s. 9d., 5s. 9d.; win pool, 4,343; place pool, 3,432.

1.45.—OPEN 3-Y.O. HURDLE (£150) (1¾m.).—**Solfoggio** (6 to 4 agst, Mr. Thackray), 1; Abelard (9 to 4, Piggott), 2; Maitre (20 to 1, Parvin), 3. 16 ran. (Winner trained by Todd.) 10l, 1½l.
Tote.—Win, 5s. 6d.; places, 2s. 9d., 2s. 9d., 11s.; win pool, 4,980; place pool, 3,917.

2.15.—WOLVERHAMPTON H'CAP H'DLE (£150) (2m.).—**Sandro** (5 to 1 agst, Everett), 1; Pompion (100 to 8, Walsh), 2; Kerosene (4 to 1, Ward), 3. 10 ran. (Winner trained by Anthony.) Head, 1½l.
Tote.—Win, 13s. 9d.; places, 4s., 5s., 3s. 6d.; win pool, 5,878; place pool 4,976.

2.45.—OTELEY H'CAP CHASE (£200) (3m.).—**Wise Don** (2 to 1 agst, Gurney), 1; Cherry Duck (7 to 1, Mr. Owen, jun.), 2, Melcaston (9 to 4, Maloney), 3. 5 ran. (Winner trained by Payne.) 3l., 10l.
Tote.—Win, 5s. 3d.; places, 3s. 3d., 5s.; win pool, 4,471; place pool, 1,786.

3.15.—DUNSTALL PARK CHASE (£150) (2m.).—**Icelander** (11 to 8 on, Cullinan), 1; Tidenham (4 to 1 agst, Foster), 2; Carre (4 to 1, Parvin), 3. 5 ran. (Winner trained by Harrison.) 1l., bad.
Tote.—Win, 3s. 6d.; places, 2s. 9d., 4s. 3d.; win pool, 3,986; place pool, 2,281.
Total Investments.—Win, £2,582 6s.; place, £1,639 4s.

TOTALISATOR DAILY DOUBLE.

Solfeggio and Sandro. Dividend, £9 3s.; pool, £539 10s. 53 winning tickets.

OFFICIAL SCRATCHINGS.

MANCHESTER MEETING.—Club Hurdle: Tongking. Broughton Hurdle: Prohibition, Guy Mannering. Chorlton Hurdle: Golden Meadow. January Handicap Chase: Rathcoole. Novices' Chase: Miss Passport. Manchester Chase: Swift Rowland.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Royal Handicap Hurdle, Windsor: Sobrino, Puttacota. Carry On Chase, Windsor: Le Sultan. Newbury Engagement: Bucks Yeoman. All Engagements: Equities, Glen Andred (dead), Kossolian (dead).

ANGLING.

SPORT WITH PIKE.

Rivers yesterday were carrying plenty of stream and colour, and with improved weather conditions they should afford excellent sport. Frosts have occurred and have interfered somewhat with roach feeding, but pike have been well on the move in some waters.

A fine pike of 18½ lb. has been captured in the Avon at Christchurch (Hampshire), and this river has yielded other nice pike. Pike fishing has been good on some of the Norfolk Broads, particularly on the Ormesby water, where a specimen of 16 lb has been landed, and a number of 12 lb. and 10 lb. fish have been also captured. Large roach have been had in the Norfolk rivers; one weighed more than 2 lb. Tench and roach and a 10 lb. pike have been caught in the Suffolk Stowe (Bures).

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Ideal position, standing high, in own grounds of two acres away from all traffic. Superior Board Residence with all the comforts of a refined home, spacious lounges, sunny bedrooms, h. and c. water, gas fires in bedrooms, some with h. and c. running water, individual attention; 5 mins. station; 20 Waterloo. Garage. Near Golf. Inc. from 2½ Gns. Illustrated Brochure on request.

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HAMPSTEAD
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FACING HYDE PARK.
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Magnificent lounges, ballroom, billiards, and recreation rooms.
Lovely airy bedrooms, handsomely furnished, luxurious beds, h. and c. running water, gas stoves, slot meters. Passenger lifts. Coal fires in lounges. Night porter.
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TERMS FROM 3½ GUINEAS.
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To those who appreciate the maximum of refinement with warmth and comfort. Central Heating. Electric Fires. H. and C. Water in Bedrooms, Private Bathroom, Suites.
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Large park. Tennis.
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Large garden.
A comf. house with good cooking. Terms from Frs. 50.

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Decorative schemes of great beauty.
Rooms with an individuality distinguished in design.
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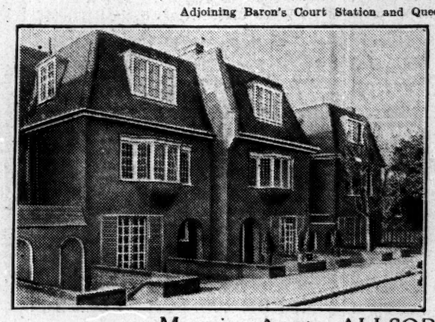

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SEASIDE AND COUNTRY

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Continued from preceding column.

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